

2022 年 1-4 月雅思口语 Part3 高频考题参考资料 (A 难度 · 1 月版)

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使用资料前，请您先仔细阅读以下内容●(^_-)

1. 提供 Part3 素材的目的，旨在帮助大家了解 Part3 高频考题，并在短期内积累可用的地道口语表达，以及通过素材启发考生回答思路。由于 Part3 考官可以即兴提问，并且提问数量、给出的回答时长各有不同；同时，任何素材思路无法全部完美适合所有人，因此建议练习中结合个人理解方式，做内容的删减、扩充等调整。以达到更高效复习的状态。调整内容时，如有疑问欢迎在售后微信中联系 Penny 解答。

2. **Topic 序号=页码**（您可按照 Topic 序号查找对应主题素材）

3. 文中含下划线的内容是高分地道表达。

4. 注意 Part1 和 Part3 考官可以即兴提问（尤其 Part3），并无法覆盖全部考题。

!! 以下均为真实考生回忆高频考题。复习过程中尽可能多的练习各种题目，增强表达能力。

5. 复习时，请根据自己喜好和个人情况，灵活运用参考答案及加分表达，切勿逐字逐句死记硬背；

6. 口语练习方法很重要，复习过程中对练习方法、素材语法词汇等有疑问，欢迎随时联系 Penny。

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2022 年 1-4 月雅思口语 Part 3 高频考题列表

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Topic1 等待特别的事情**1. On what occasions do people usually need to wait?**

People usually need to wait on a number of different occasions, including when they are lining up for¹ something or waiting for an appointment. Sometimes people have to wait in very long lines at stores, especially if it is a busy time to go shopping. Sometimes people need to wait in traffic. Waiting for a medical or dental appointment can also take a long time. Most people need to wait for things very often throughout their lives².

2. Who behaves better when waiting, children or adults?

Usually, adults behave better when waiting than children. Children often do not understand why they have to wait for something, whereas³ adults know why they are waiting. Children get restless very easily⁴, and they usually have more energy than adults, so they don't like it when they have to wait for a long time in one spot, not moving⁵. Adults can wait more patiently than children because they have more experience and they have better self-control⁶.

3. Compared to the past, are people less patient now, why?

I suppose that people are less patient now because it is easier nowadays to do things without having to wait at all. People have become accustomed to instant gratification⁷. You can order packages online that arrive the next day, and you can order food from a restaurant delivered to your home. It is very easy to avoid waiting, so when people do have to wait for something⁸, they are less patient.

见下页

¹ lining up for: 为...排队

² throughout their lives: 一生之中

³ whereas: 然而

⁴ get restless very easily: 很容易焦躁不安

⁵ wait for a long time in one spot, not moving: 在一个

地方很长时间等着不动:

⁶ have better self-control: 有更好的自我控制力

⁷ have become accustomed to instant gratification: 已经习惯了即时满足

⁸ do have to wait for something: 需要为了什么等待

4. What are the positive and negative effects of waiting on society?

Well, a positive effect is that, in some cases⁹, it can teach people patience. When they have to wait in line for a long time, they have to learn how to manage their impatience and still be polite. But a negative effect is that it can make people very aggressive¹⁰. Not everyone can keep their temper in check¹¹. When people have to wait in a long line on the highway, you can often get drivers with road rage¹² who act recklessly¹³ just to get ahead.

5. Is it a good thing to be patient all the time? /Should people be patient all the time?

Yes, I think that for the most part¹⁴, it's good to be patient all the time. There are a few instances where you should act instead of waiting around¹⁵, like if there's an emergency. But in general, patience is a good trait to have. Being impatient can make you feel anxious and irritable¹⁶. Plus, you can't control the things that happen around you. You might get stuck in a long line of cars on the highway, or you might have to wait a long time for your meal. But if the situation is out of your control¹⁷, it's good to be patient instead of losing your cool¹⁸.

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⁹ in some cases: 在某些情况下

¹⁰ aggressive: 好斗; 有戾气

¹¹ keep their temper in check: 控制他们的脾气

¹² get drivers with road rage: 遇到有路怒症的司机

¹³ recklessly: 鲁莽地; 不顾后果的

¹⁴ for the most part: 在很大程度上

¹⁵ should act instead of waiting around: 应该采取行动而不是等待

¹⁶ anxious and irritable: 焦虑和易怒

¹⁷ out of your control: 超出你的控制

¹⁸ losing your cool: 失去冷静

Topic 2 很难但成功完成的事

1. What do children usually find difficult to do?

Children usually find it difficult to concentrate. They have a ton of energy. So they'd rather run around and play with their friends¹⁹ than focus on their homework. They might even have trouble listening in class when they're surrounded by their friends. It's tempting to just talk amongst themselves²⁰ instead of listening to the teacher. It can also be hard for children to master some social skills, like sharing and communicating.

2. How do kids solve problems?

Kids often solve problems by turning to their parents for advice²¹. If they're stuck on a math problem in their homework, they might ask their parents to walk them through it²². Or they might even ask the teacher for more guidance in math class. When it comes to more complex problems, like issues in their friendships, they might work out the problem among themselves. That helps them develop more independence. Generally speaking, it is a good idea for children to try to solve problems on their own because that is how they can develop more resilience²³ and confidence.

3. How can parents guide or help their children to do things that seem difficult?

Parents can help children by providing encouragement and modelling the things that they want their child to do²⁴. So, for example, if a child is learning to tie their shoes, parents can help them by first showing them how to do it, then guiding them to do it on their own. Parents can also help by showing their kids a clear step-by-step process²⁵ to make the task simpler.

见下页

¹⁹ run around and play with their friends: 跑来跑去和小朋友玩

²⁰ It's tempting to just talk amongst themselves: (课堂上) 交头接耳对他们来说是很有诱惑力的

²¹ turning to their parents for advice: 向父母寻求建议

²² walk them through it: 给他们讲解一下

²³ resilience: 韧性

²⁴ modelling the things that they want their child to do: 示范一下那些他们想让孩子做的事情

²⁵ a clear step-by-step process: 一个清晰的一步一步的过程; 清晰的分步过程

4. Should children face difficult problems or challenges all by themselves?

I think it is important for children to face some problems on their own so that they develop more confidence. For example, if they get into an argument with their friend, they should try to talk it out²⁶ so they can learn to be more independent. But whenever they are faced with a very difficult or confusing problem they should probably go to an adult for help. Serious problems like bullying or abuse²⁷ should always be dealt with by a responsible adult.

5. Is confidence important?

Yes, I would say that confidence is important in every aspect of daily life²⁸. In order to be successful and to take risks in life, people need to have enough confidence in themselves first. This is true in²⁹ school, work, or social environments. That being said³⁰, there is always a risk of people developing overconfidence, which would be a problem if they start to think that they can never do anything wrong.

6. What jobs require confidence?

I suppose that every job requires confidence, although some require more confidence than others. Jobs where you have to lead a team of people³¹ require the most confidence, because you need to convince your team that you are the right person to take control. You also have to be confident if you're a performer of any kind³². For example, singers and actors need to be comfortable performing in front of other people, which requires a lot of confidence.

7. Is overconfidence good?

Overconfidence is usually a bad thing. People who are overconfident might try to do things that they are not actually qualified or prepared to do. An overconfident driver, for example, is more likely to get into a car accident³³. An overconfident student might not study as hard as they should for an exam. Overconfidence can lead to arrogance and rudeness³⁴, so it is important to be confident, but not too confident.

见下页

²⁶ talk it out: 谈个明白; 把事情讲透

²⁷ bullying or abuse: 霸凌和虐待

²⁸ in every aspect of daily life: 在日常生活的各个方面

²⁹ This is true in: 在...方面都是如此

³⁰ That being said: 话虽这么说的

³¹ Jobs where you have to lead a team of people: 需要领导一群人的工作

³² a performer of any kind: 任何形式的表演者

³³ get into a car accident: 发生车祸

³⁴ arrogance and rudeness: 傲慢和无礼

8. On what occasions should children be encouraged? How?

It seems to me that children should be encouraged when they're on the verge of giving up³⁵. If they're genuinely struggling with something, such as learning how to do a new task, then an adult can step in to show them the way³⁶. Plus, children should be encouraged when they do something good or noteworthy³⁷. Parents or teachers can give them praise to encourage them to keep up their good work.

9. How do you help children stay focused?

I suppose that you can help children stay focused by being creative and engaging³⁸. For example, if you're teaching a kid how to do something, you can make it fun by turning it into a game for them. I can't think of a child who doesn't love games. They really enjoy learning that way. Plus, parents and teachers should make sure children always do one thing at a time. For example, they shouldn't talk to children when they are focused on doing homework.

10. What challenges do young people face today?

I think young people deal with a lot of social pressure. They want to seem fun and successful to their friends while keeping up with the latest trends³⁹. Social media adds a lot of stress because it makes them compare themselves to others. Whether it's their friend or a famous celebrity, they might end up feeling inadequate⁴⁰. It's also difficult for young people to find stable jobs. I saw reports saying that young graduates from college have been hit harder than experienced workers in the pandemic job market. So it's a big challenge for young people who are unemployed right now.

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³⁵ on the verge of giving up: 接近于放弃, 快要放弃了

³⁶ step in to show them the way: 介入其中来给他们指明道路 (指明方法)

³⁷ noteworthy: 值得注意的, 值得关注的

³⁸ engaging: 有吸引力的; 此处亦指“能吸引 (学生) 参与的”

³⁹ keeping up with the latest trends: 追赶最新潮流

⁴⁰ feeling inadequate: 感到 (对自己) 不满足, 不满意

Topic 3 未实现的志向

1. Is it important for children to have ambitions?

Yes, I think it's important for children to have ambitions. They don't need to know every detail of what they want to do with their lives. But it's good for them to have some sense of direction⁴¹. They should have a goal that they can work towards. It helps keep them motivated through everyday life. Plus, it gives them a sense of achievement when they accomplish their goals.

2. Are all ambitions good in life?

No, I don't think all ambitions are good in life. Sometimes, ambitions can be too self-centred or self-serving⁴². For example, some people only want to get rich. They don't care about what it takes⁴³, or who they might hurt in their pursuit of wealth. I think those kinds of goals are too vain and they don't lead to any good⁴⁴. So there are definitely some ambitions that I would consider toxic⁴⁵.

3. What are the important qualities to achieve our ambitions?

I suppose that in order to achieve your ambitions, you need to be hard-working and patient. It's not enough to know what you want to do. You need to make a realistic plan and dedicate yourself to following it⁴⁶, no matter how hard it might get. You have to be willing to put your best effort into making your dreams come true. Besides, you have to be persistent, even if it takes a few tries⁴⁷. Most of the time, you can't make it in one shot⁴⁸. If you don't have the grit, you might quit before you make it.

4. What ambitions do children usually have?

Children usually have big ambitions about⁴⁹ what their future will look like. Adults like to ask children, what do you want to be when you grow up? Children always have really exciting answers like astronaut, inventor, celebrity, or famous athlete. And basically all of those dreams have to do with someone they look up to⁵⁰. Children also may have ambitions about their personal lives⁵¹, like when they will get married and have their own families. It's funny to hear kids say that, but I actually think it's a reflection of different kids' personalities and backgrounds.

见下页

⁴¹ have some sense of direction: 有方向感; 这里是指有努力的方向

⁴² self-serving: 自私的

⁴³ what it takes: 有什么代价 (为此会付出什么代价)

⁴⁴ they don't lead to any good: 它们不会带来任何好处

⁴⁵ I would consider toxic: 我认为是有毒的

⁴⁶ dedicate yourself to following it: 致力于实现它

⁴⁷ even if it takes a few tries: 即使需要尝试几次; 这句话是指即使不会一次就成功, 需要多尝试几次

⁴⁸ make it in one shot: 一次就能成功

⁴⁹ have big ambitions about: 对...有很大的抱负

⁵⁰ look up to: 尊敬的; 敬佩的

⁵¹ ambitions about their personal lives: 对它们的个人生活有野心 (抱负)

5. Why are some people very ambitious in their work?

Some people are very ambitious at work because they want to get promoted to a higher level⁵² in their job. They might start out as⁵³ an intern or an assistant, but they have ambitions of eventually becoming a manager or CEO. Some people become more ambitious due to deep-seated insecurity⁵⁴. They constantly feel like they have to be better than others, especially when they are in a competitive environment. The stress of being washed out⁵⁵ or left behind drives them to improve themselves. It's really normal in China because the society we live in right now is way more competitive than it was in the past.

6. Why don't some people have dreams?

Some people don't have dreams because they're not quite sure what they want to do yet with their lives. They might have a simple life or always stay in their comfort zone⁵⁶, so they haven't had the chance to see the world and find out what they're passionate about. But there are also some people who don't have the nerve to⁵⁷ dream something big because they are afraid of how much time and effort they'll have to put into pursuing the dream. For example, a lot of people love reading or listening to music, but they don't dream of being professional writers or musicians.

7. How do people balance work and life?

It can be hard to balance work and life, but it is very important to do so in order to avoid exhaustion and burnout⁵⁸. There are many different strategies to avoid burnout. One strategy is to ensure that your work life and your home life are physically separated⁵⁹, either by going into work, or, if you work from home, having a separate area of your home for work. It makes it easier to devote more time to your family. Another strategy is to set boundaries with your work⁶⁰, such as by refusing to work past your contracted hours⁶¹.

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⁵² get promoted to a higher level: 得到提升

⁵³ start out as: 从...做起; 从...开始

⁵⁴ due to deep-seated insecurity: 由于根深蒂固的不安全感

⁵⁵ being washed out: 被淘汰

⁵⁶ stay in their comfort zone: 待在他们的舒适区

⁵⁷ don't have the nerve to: 不敢去; 没有勇气去...

⁵⁸ avoid exhaustion and burnout: 避免精疲力竭

⁵⁹ physically separated: 物理上是分开的

⁶⁰ set boundaries with your work: 为你的工作设定界限

⁶¹ refusing to work past your contracted hours: 拒绝加班; 拒绝超时工作

Topic 4 为家人骄傲

1. When would parents feel proud of their children?

Parents would feel proud of their children after any kind of accomplishment, big or small. If a child learns a new word, takes their first steps⁶², learns to ride a bike, or learns to drive a car, parents would be proud. Major life events⁶³ such as weddings and graduations also make parents very proud. Overall, parents are proud when their children are living a life that makes them happy and fulfilled⁶⁴.

2. Should parents reward children? Why and how?

Yes, I think parents should reward children when they accomplish something. Parents can reward children for academic accomplishments like receiving a good grade on a report card, or for personal accomplishments like doing something nice for someone else, or donating to a charity. If parents want to instill good values in their children⁶⁵, offering rewards can be a good way to reinforce good behaviour. That being said⁶⁶, parents should be wary of⁶⁷ giving too many rewards; it is better if children do good things because they want to, not because they expect a reward.

3. Do Chinese parents reward their children?

Actually, most Chinese parents don't reward their children that often. They don't want them to depend on rewards to learn or do their work⁶⁸. Instead, they want their kids to be more competitive. If you reward a kid every time they do something right, they might just do things to get a reward and not because they see the value of their work⁶⁹. So for the most part⁷⁰, Chinese parents don't tend to praise or reward their kids very often.

见下页

⁶² takes their first steps: 迈出第一步

⁶³ Major life events: 重要的生活事件; 生活中的大事

⁶⁴ makes them happy and fulfilled: 让他们感到快乐和满足

⁶⁵ instill good values in their children: 给孩子树立良好的价值观

⁶⁶ That being said: 话虽这么说

⁶⁷ be wary of: 提防; 当心

⁶⁸ depend on rewards to learn or do their work: 依赖于奖励去学习或工作

⁶⁹ see the value of their work: 看到他们工作的价值

⁷⁰ So for the most part: 大多数情况下是这样的

4. Is it good to reward children too often? Why?

No, I think rewarding children too often would be a major problem. Children need to develop intrinsic motivation⁷¹, but frequent rewards encourage extrinsic motivation⁷². Children should want to be successful in their life because it brings them a sense of pride and purpose. These feelings should be reward enough on their own⁷³. However, sometimes children deserve a reward if they have accomplished something major. Parents just need to be careful about how often they give rewards.

5. On what occasions would adults be proud of themselves?

Adults might be proud of themselves for a number of different reasons. They may take pride in a new accomplishment or promotion at work that they have been working hard towards⁷⁴. They also tend to be proud of themselves for personal milestones⁷⁵, like getting married or getting a new apartment. Finally, many adults take pride in their children⁷⁶, and consider their children's successes as their own.

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⁷¹ intrinsic motivation: 内在动机

⁷² extrinsic motivation: 外在动机

⁷³ These feelings should be reward enough on their own:
这些感觉本身就应该是一种奖励

⁷⁴ have been working hard towards: 一直在努力从事的

⁷⁵ personal milestones: 人生里程碑

⁷⁶ take pride in their children: 为他们的孩子感到骄傲

Topic 5 准备过的开心活动

1. How can you be a well-prepared person?

I suppose that in order to be a well-prepared person, you need to manage your time well. You should be organized so that you don't get overwhelmed by all your tasks. You should try to stay on top of all of your responsibilities⁷⁷ by making plans or budgets for the tasks beforehand. That way, you can be prepared for whatever comes your way⁷⁸. You should also be flexible. You have to be able to handle life's challenges whenever they come up.

2. How can parents help children get organized?

I think parents can help children get organized by identifying their daily tasks⁷⁹. If a child can make a list of what they have to do every day, it won't be so overwhelming. They can focus on doing one task at a time. Parents can also help children manage their time well. They can break up the day into sections⁸⁰ and help their kids plan what to do for each hour.

3. On what occasions do people need to be organized?

People need to be organized for important events, especially ones that require a lot of work and effort, like vacations. When you go on a trip, you need to keep track of all the details⁸¹, like your flight and hotel. If you don't want to mess up⁸² the trip, you should be organized during the journey. People also have to be organized in their day-to-day life, especially if they work in a professional setting⁸³. For example, many people have to deal with countless emails, files and calls in the office during the day, so they have to know how to manage their work efficiently.

见下页

⁷⁷ stay on top of all of your responsibilities: 掌握了解你的所有职责

⁷⁸ whatever comes your way: 遇到的任何事情

⁷⁹ identifying their daily tasks: 指出他们的日常任务; 意思是告诉孩子每天应该做的事情

⁸⁰ break up the day into sections: 把一天分成几个部分

⁸¹ keep track of all the details: 跟踪记下所有的细节

⁸² mess up: 搞砸

⁸³ work in a professional setting: 在专业环境下工作

4. Does everything need to be well prepared?

Well, yes, I think that everyone can benefit from being more prepared and organized in their lives. When people are well prepared, they can feel more confident. Being organized also helps with time management; if you are well organized, you can complete more tasks in a day. Also, people in your life will come to think of you as reliable and trustworthy⁸⁴ if you are consistently prepared⁸⁵. This is true in both your work life and your personal life.

5. Do people need others' help when organizing things?

Yes, I suppose that being organized and prepared comes very naturally to some people⁸⁶, but for others it can be really difficult. For some people who suck at time management or are just new in a professional field, having someone else to help them get organized is necessary. As a result, there are a lot of professions that help people become organized, including accountants, travel agents, guidance counselors⁸⁷, professional cleaners, and teachers. Family and friends can also help each other become more organized by giving advice and lending a helping hand⁸⁸ when needed.

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⁸⁴ come to think of you as reliable and trustworthy: 会认为你是可靠和值得信赖的

⁸⁵ consistently prepared: 一直做好准备; 随时都准备好了

⁸⁶ comes very naturally to some people: 对一些人来说

是很自然的

⁸⁷ guidance counselors: 咨询顾问; 指导师

⁸⁸ lending a helping hand: 伸出援助之手, 助一臂之力

Topic 6 想要送朋友的礼物

1. When do people normally send gifts to others?

People normally send each other gifts on special occasions, like birthdays or holidays. Anniversaries are also a good occasion for gifts⁸⁹. For example, people give their significant others⁹⁰ gifts on the anniversary of when they started dating, or when they got married. Sometimes people give gifts to mark special achievements⁹¹, like someone's graduation. That may be a little less traditional, but I would say it's a nice way to celebrate someone.

2. Do people give gifts or red packets during traditional festivals?

Yes, a lot of people give both gifts and red packets during traditional festivals. For example, Chinese New Year is a very important celebration. It's customary for people to⁹² hand out red envelopes to bring happiness and blessings to whoever receives it. I think it's a nice tradition. It's also common to give out gifts⁹³ like fruit baskets, tea, and candy or chocolate. It definitely helps the festival feel like a special time of year.

3. Is it hard to choose a gift?

Yes, it can be hard to choose a gift. If you're getting a gift for someone you don't know too well, you might be unsure of their tastes⁹⁴. So it can be hard finding something that they'll like. In other situations⁹⁵, you might have a lot of ideas for a gift, but it's challenging to narrow it down⁹⁶. But if you know the person well and you're confident about what they want, it's not that difficult.

4. Is clothing a good gift? Is it easy to choose a piece of clothing as a gift?

I suppose that in some cases, clothing can be a good gift. If you know the person well and feel confident that you know their style, it'll probably be easy to find something that suits them. However, it can be tricky to⁹⁷ get a piece of clothing as a gift. In addition to knowing what styles of clothing they prefer, you need to know their size. It can be awkward if you get them something too big or too small. But if you're getting them something like socks or a hat, that's a pretty safe bet⁹⁸.

见下页

⁸⁹ a good occasion for gifts: 送礼的好时机; 送礼物的好场合

⁹⁰ significant others: 另一半; 配偶

⁹¹ give gifts to mark special achievements: 用礼物来纪念特殊的成就

⁹² It's customary for people to: 对人们来说是个习俗...; 按照习俗, 人们会...

⁹³ give out gifts: 给礼物; 送礼物

⁹⁴ unsure of their tastes: 不确定他们的品味; 不确定他们的喜好

⁹⁵ In other situations: 在其他情况下

⁹⁶ narrow it down: 缩小 (选择范围)

⁹⁷ it can be tricky to: 这是很棘手的

⁹⁸ that's a pretty safe bet: 那就很保险了; 是个保险的选择

5. Will people feel happy when receiving an expensive gift?

It seems to me that most people feel happy when they receive an expensive gift. Gifts are a way of showing someone that you care about them. When that gift is expensive, people will feel especially valued because they realize that it cost a lot to give. But I don't think that everyone cares about the value of a gift. Sometimes, it's just the thought that counts⁹⁹. Some people might even feel overwhelmed by getting a luxury gift, especially if the person that gave you the gift is not very well off.

6. What do people usually consider when choosing gifts?

People usually try to consider things like price and sentimental value¹⁰⁰. For example, if they're not trying to break the bank¹⁰¹, they'll look for gifts that are thoughtful without being too expensive. Sometimes, they might specifically look for an expensive gift to show the person that they're going the extra mile¹⁰². But people also consider the sentimental value of a gift. They want to make sure that the gift is meaningful to the person receiving it. It might be related to a special memory that the two of them share.

7. Is it stressful to prepare gifts for important occasions?

I think that in some cases, it can be stressful. If you don't know the person very well, it might be hard to pick something nice for them. For example, a lot of people who are invited to weddings may not know the couple very well. They could be distant relatives¹⁰³ or casual friends¹⁰⁴. But they need to pick something thoughtful as a wedding gift. It can still be stressful if you know the person well, though. Some couples even fight because they aren't satisfied with their anniversary gift. Sometimes you just don't know if the gift is the right one.

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⁹⁹ it's just the thought that counts: 心意才是最重要的

¹⁰⁰ sentimental value: 情感价值

¹⁰¹ break the bank: 倾家荡产; 花光钱

¹⁰² going the extra mile: 付出额外的努力

¹⁰³ distant relatives: 远亲

¹⁰⁴ casual friends: 普通朋友

Topic 7 别人给你的衣服

1. Have you ever given clothes to others?

Yes, I give my friends and my cousins clothes all the time. In fact, we often exchange clothes if we get tired of wearing them, or if they don't fit anymore. A few weeks ago, I gave my cousin an old shirt that I'd outgrown¹⁰⁵. It fit him to a tee¹⁰⁶. So I'm glad that I could repurpose¹⁰⁷ it. I think giving people clothes is much more helpful than just throwing them away. It's very wasteful if you only wear something a couple times before giving up on it.

2. Why do people dress casually in everyday life but dress formally at work?

Well, in everyday life, you don't have to meet a certain standard¹⁰⁸. You're just hanging out with friends or family, or chilling at home by yourself. There's nobody that you have to impress. But when you're at work, you're striving to be professional¹⁰⁹ because you're doing serious business. You need to look the part¹¹⁰. In most cases, it's actually considered rude to wear casual clothes to the workplace. It shows a lack of respect for¹¹¹ your coworkers and boss.

3. What are the advantages and disadvantages of wearing uniforms at work and school?

One advantage of uniforms is that it puts everyone on equal footing¹¹². Especially in school, people can get very focused on appearances. They might judge others based on what they wear. But if everyone has a uniform on, then they can't be singled out in a bad way¹¹³. Another advantage is that it makes everyone feel like part of the same team. But on the downside, people can't express themselves as well since they have to conform to one look¹¹⁴. You don't get as much individuality.

见下页

¹⁰⁵ outgrown: 我已经太大了

¹⁰⁶ fit him to a tee: 很适合他

¹⁰⁷ repurpose: 重新利用; 重新找到用武之地

¹⁰⁸ you don't have to meet a certain standard: 你不需要达到什么标准

¹⁰⁹ striving to be professional: 努力变得专业

¹¹⁰ look the part: 看起来像个角色; 看起来有派头

¹¹¹ It shows a lack of respect for: 这会看起来不尊重...

¹¹² it puts everyone on equal footing: 它让每个人都处于平等的地位

¹¹³ they can't be singled out in a bad way: 以很糟糕的形式被从人群中挑出来

¹¹⁴ have to conform to one look: 顺从于一种外观潮流

4. Why do people from different countries wear different clothing?

Well, fashion is very connected to culture. It represents different cultural values and is influenced by societal trends¹¹⁵. So when you look at different countries, all of which have different values and traditions, you're going to see a wide range of fashion styles. Besides, clothing depends on the environment, so it's natural that¹¹⁶ countries with colder climates would wear warmer, heavier clothing, while light and bright clothing would be more popular in tropical countries¹¹⁷.

5. Do you think dressing formally makes people look more professional?

Yes, I think that wearing formal attire¹¹⁸ makes you look more professional. Clothing is a huge part of how you communicate your identity to the world. If you're wearing a T-shirt and jeans, you come across as a more relaxed and laidback¹¹⁹ person. But if you're wearing a fancy dress, or a nice suit, then you look poised¹²⁰ and mature, which helps you appear professional to others. Formal clothes can make a world of difference when it comes to self-presentation¹²¹.

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¹¹⁵ societal trends: 社会趋势

¹¹⁶ it's natural that: 很自然的是

¹¹⁷ tropical countries: 热带国家

¹¹⁸ wearing formal attire: 穿正装

¹¹⁹ laidback: 悠闲放松

¹²⁰ poised: 稳重

¹²¹ self-presentation: 自我展示

Topic 8 特别的蛋糕

1. What is the difference between special food in China and foreign countries?

Well, a lot of special foods in China use more unique parts of the animal¹²². For example, you can have delicacies¹²³ like rabbit's head. It's cool that these dishes use every part of the animal. In contrast, some foreign countries have special dishes that avoid using meat altogether¹²⁴, or they might be better known for desserts instead of savoury food¹²⁵. It really depends on what the culture is in that particular part of the country.

2. Do people usually cook special food in China?

Well, yes I think for the most part, we do cook special foods for certain occasions. Even though more people are getting used to buying specialties¹²⁶ like mooncakes or rice dumplings at grocery stores, tons of Chinese people still enjoy the process of making them at home. For example, it's a tradition for the whole family to make dumplings together on the Spring Festival Eve, which makes the holiday more joyous and festive¹²⁷. Plus, it's an important bonding time¹²⁸ for the family every year.

3. Should special food be easily available?

Well, it depends. If the special food requires an ingredient that's seasonal, I don't think it needs to be made easily available. It's worth it to only be able to make something when it's in season¹²⁹. For example, hairy crabs¹³⁰ are only available in the autumn, which is a signature food for Mid-Autumn Day in south-east China. It helps make the dish feel truly special. But in other cases, it's nice to be able to eat those dishes whenever you're in the mood for them¹³¹.

见下页

¹²² unique parts of the animal: 动物的特殊部位

¹²³ delicacies: 美味佳肴; 好菜

¹²⁴ avoid using meat altogether: 完全不使用肉类

¹²⁵ savoury food: 咸食; 调味食品

¹²⁶ specialties: 特色食品

¹²⁷ makes the holiday more joyous and festive: 使节日更加欢乐和有节日气氛

¹²⁸ bonding time: 增进感情的时间

¹²⁹ It's worth it to only be able to make something when it's in season: 值得做一些只有应季才能做的东西 (食品)

¹³⁰ hairy crabs: 大闸蟹

¹³¹ whenever you're in the mood for them: 只要有这个心情; 此处指“只要你想吃这些食品了”

4. When do people have special food? (like festival food or food for special events)

It seems to me that people eat food that they wouldn't normally eat when they have something to celebrate. For example, you usually get to eat cake when it's someone's birthday. Many people also like to celebrate a new house or graduation with a fancy feast¹³². Besides, you can cook and enjoy traditional foods during certain festivals. It's common that dinners for Chinese New Year's Eve vary from family to family¹³³. I think it's really nice having special dishes that are only served for certain purposes. It makes those events more meaningful and memorable.

5. Is there any food in your country that is eaten at special times or on special occasions?

Yes, there are many specialties¹³⁴ that Chinese people eat during festivals, important events or special days in China. For example, mooncakes, one of my favorite desserts, are made and eaten for the mid-autumn day. It's also a tradition in China to eat dumplings on the spring festival eve. And in many regions of China, people love having a bowl of long life noodles¹³⁵ on their birthday, as a good wish for a healthy and long life.

6. Why are some people willing to spend a lot of money on meals on special days?

I think it's because they believe it's worth it to spend a lot of money to celebrate something. I mean, people value different things and moments, but in general, it's nice to take your family or significant other¹³⁶ to a fancy restaurant to celebrate their birthdays or anniversaries, or even an engagement. Even though it might cost you an arm and a leg¹³⁷, the memories and joy from the meal you enjoy with them will make it worth every penny¹³⁸.

7. Do you think it's good to communicate when eating with your family?

Yes, communicating during mealtimes with family is very important. Family doesn't always get to spend quality time together because parents are working and kids are attending school¹³⁹. Everyone needs to eat, so mealtimes are an ideal opportunity to catch up¹⁴⁰ and see how everyone is doing. Actually dinner is very important for me and my family, because it is a rare chance for us all to talk¹⁴¹. Some families even have strict rules such as no phones at the table so that they can communicate better.

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¹³² a fancy feast: 一顿大餐

¹³³ vary from family to family: 每家都不同

¹³⁴ specialties: 特色食品

¹³⁵ having a bowl of long life noodles: 吃一碗长寿面

¹³⁶ significant other: 配偶; 另一半

¹³⁷ cost you an arm and a leg: 花你一大笔钱

¹³⁸ make it be worth every penny: 让它物有所值

¹³⁹ attending school: 上学

¹⁴⁰ catch up: 聊聊情况; 了解彼此情况

¹⁴¹ a rare chance for us all to talk: 一个难得的机会让我们大家都聊一聊

Topic 9 度假胜地

1. What are some popular attractions that people usually like to visit in your country?

Some popular attractions that people like to visit include museums, shopping malls, and national parks. If you are visiting a new city, you are going to want to explore everything that it has to offer¹⁴². It is important to do your research first to find out¹⁴³ what kinds of things you would actually enjoy doing. Some people love history and visit lots of museums, while others are very outdoorsy¹⁴⁴ and prefer to hike through national parks.

2. Do old people and young people choose different places to go on vacation? Why?

Yes, I think old people tend to pick more relaxing places, while young people want to have adventures in an exciting setting¹⁴⁵. Old people would probably be content to sit on a beach and relax all day. Or they might choose places with a lot of history and just do walking tours¹⁴⁶. But young people are more inclined towards places where¹⁴⁷ they can explore a lot and do exciting activities like diving or parasailing¹⁴⁸. So they might choose exotic locations to check out.

3. What do young people and old people think about when making travel plans?

I think old people usually consider their personal comfort. They want to know that they won't be too exhausted at the end of each day. So they might choose very low-key trips¹⁴⁹ and not put a lot of activities on their itinerary¹⁵⁰. But young people are less concerned with comfort and more interested in having adventures. So they'll want to pick somewhere that'll be exciting and they'll probably plan to do a lot of strenuous¹⁵¹ or challenging activities.

4. How do people usually discover a new place to travel?

Most people discover a new place to travel by talking to other travelers or reading reviews online. There are a lot of smaller cities and towns that only locals know about. These places are usually less busy and less expensive than the popular tourist cities, so they can be a great option to explore¹⁵². Sometimes a good strategy is to¹⁵³ start your trip in a major city, then speak to some of the locals there and ask them if they know of any good spots nearby¹⁵⁴.

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¹⁴² explore everything that it has to offer: 探索它所提供的一切

¹⁴³ do your research first to find out: 首先要做调查，去找出..

¹⁴⁴ outdoorsy: 爱好户外活动的

¹⁴⁵ have adventures in an exciting setting: 在激动人心的环境中冒险；在令人兴奋的环境中冒险

¹⁴⁶ just do walking tours: 徒步旅行；步行游览

¹⁴⁷ are more inclined towards places where: 更倾向于去...的地方

¹⁴⁸ parasailing: 帆伞滑翔

¹⁴⁹ low-key trips: 低调的旅行；这里指轻松，活动不多的旅行

¹⁵⁰ itinerary: 旅程

¹⁵¹ strenuous: 费力的

¹⁵² a great option to explore: 这是一个值得（游览）探索的好选择

¹⁵³ a good strategy is to: 一个好的策略是

¹⁵⁴ if they know of any good spots nearby: 如果他们知道附近有什么好地方

Topic 10 一个去过的新地方

1. Which do you prefer, living in a city or only visiting it as a tourist?

I like living in a city rather than just visiting as a tourist. I know that city life isn't for everyone. A lot of people get overwhelmed by how fast-paced¹⁵⁵ cities are. But I really enjoy living in a city because there are so many exciting opportunities there. Whether it's a cool job or something fun to do on the weekend, the city has a lot to offer¹⁵⁶. Plus, there's always a ton of amazing food spots¹⁵⁷.

2. How do young children react when they go to school for the first time?

I guess most young children are pretty excited to go to school for the first time. Of course, there are some kids who are anxious about a new environment. They might not have a good first day. But for the most part¹⁵⁸, kids are curious about school. They're excited to be with their friends and learn about the world. So overall, I think the first day at school can be really fun for them.

3. What might young people feel at their first workplace after they just graduated from college?

I suppose that a lot of young people feel overwhelmed at their first workplace. When they're fresh out of college¹⁵⁹, they're trying their best to be adults in the real world. Getting a job is a big part of that, but it can also be a very scary process. For example, a lot of young people are worried about being given a hard time by their boss or coworkers when they just start their jobs. It's hard to adjust to those huge life changes. Some young people might even have imposter syndrome¹⁶⁰. They might not think they're ready or qualified to have their job.

见下页

¹⁵⁵ fast-paced: 快节奏

¹⁵⁶ the city has a lot to offer: 这座城市能提供给人们的东西有很多

¹⁵⁷ food spots: 美食聚集地

¹⁵⁸ But for the most part: 但在大多数情况下

¹⁵⁹ When they're fresh out of college: 当他们刚刚从大学毕业的时候

¹⁶⁰ imposter syndrome: 冒名顶替综合症; 是一种自我否定的心理障碍, 觉得自己配不上这份工作

4. How do young and old people react differently to new things?

Well, young people are a lot more open to new things. They don't have their guard up as much as old people do¹⁶¹. So when they encounter something new, they're more receptive and they're willing to embrace it. Old people, on the other hand, might be too overwhelmed by new things. They might feel hesitant or even suspicious¹⁶² if it's too different from what they're used to. It gets harder to embrace change¹⁶³ as you get older.

5. Why do some people want to go to college far away from home?

I think that some people want to go to college far from home because they want to have brand-new experiences¹⁶⁴. If you stay in the same area your whole life, you won't get exposed to new things. You might even get stuck in a rut¹⁶⁵. By moving somewhere far away from home for school, people get to be a part of a new community and experience things they wouldn't have access to back home¹⁶⁶.

6. What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad or working abroad?

Well, one big advantage is that you get to experience a new place. You can learn about the local culture, try new foods, and connect with people you wouldn't have gotten the chance to meet otherwise¹⁶⁷. Plus, you can take in the natural scenery and do some sightseeing¹⁶⁸. On the downside, it can be very lonely when you go abroad if you don't know the language. You might feel isolated because you don't know anyone. Plus, culture shock¹⁶⁹ might make you feel out of place¹⁷⁰.

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¹⁶¹ They don't have their guard up as much as old people do: 他们不像老人那样总是特别警惕

¹⁶² suspicious: 感到可疑

¹⁶³ embrace change: 拥抱变化

¹⁶⁴ brand-new experiences: 全新的经历; 全新的体验

¹⁶⁵ get stuck in a rut: 墨守成规

¹⁶⁶ experience things they wouldn't have access to back

home: 体验那些他们在家乡无法接触到的东西

¹⁶⁷ connect with people you wouldn't have gotten the chance to meet otherwise: 和如果没去的话你本来没有机会遇到的人交流

¹⁶⁸ do some sightseeing: 观光

¹⁶⁹ culture shock: 文化冲击

¹⁷⁰ feel out of place: 感到格格不入

Topic 11 有趣的城市

1. What advantages can tourism bring to a city?

Well, for one thing¹⁷¹, tourism can boost a city's economy¹⁷². As more and more tourists show up, they spend more and more money at local restaurants and other businesses. So that helps support the city's finances. Another benefit is that tourism creates more jobs. Local citizens can get jobs as tour guides and work with visitors. Plus, with lots of tourists showing up, the city is more likely to invest in improving the infrastructure¹⁷³.

2. Why do some young people like to live in cities?

I think some young people like living in cities because there are more opportunities for them there. If they're looking for jobs in more modern fields¹⁷⁴ like technology or finance, they're bound to find something in a city¹⁷⁵. Plus, cities have a lot more options for¹⁷⁶ food and entertainment. There's always something exciting or cool going on in the city, especially late at night and on the weekends. Young people thrive in cities¹⁷⁷ for those reasons.

3. Do most elderly people live in the city or in the countryside?

Well, most elderly people live in the countryside. Cities are great and they have a lot of resources for older people, such as good healthcare in major hospitals. But cities are also very fast-paced. The hustle and bustle of daily life¹⁷⁸ there can be overwhelming for the elderly. So I think that as people get older, they tend to move out to the countryside. Things are much more relaxed in rural areas.

4. Do you think well-developed tourism will have negative effects on local people?

Well, yes. I mean, tourism can bring a lot of great benefits as it develops. However, there are definitely some drawbacks. When it comes to natural scenery, too many tourists can disturb and even damage the environment. That can be a disadvantage for the people who live there and want to enjoy that scenery for themselves. Moreover, some tourists may be disrespectful of the local culture, which leads to clashes with the local citizens¹⁷⁹.

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¹⁷¹ for one thing: 首先; 一方面来说

¹⁷² boost a city's economy: 促进城市经济发展

¹⁷³ invest in improving the infrastructure: 致力于改善基础设施

¹⁷⁴ modern fields: 现代的领域

¹⁷⁵ they're bound to find something in a city: 他们一定能在城市找到什么(工作)

¹⁷⁶ have a lot more options for: 有更多的选择

¹⁷⁷ thrive in cities: 在城市里发展成长

¹⁷⁸ The hustle and bustle of daily life: 日常生活的喧嚣和忙碌

¹⁷⁹ leads to clashes with the local citizens: 导致和当地居民的冲突

Topic 12 乡村一隅

1. Is there anything special about the villages in your country?

Well, of course I think that the villages in my country are special in their own way. Lots of villages have beautiful scenery that you can only enjoy when you're away from the hustle and bustle of major cities¹⁸⁰. I know tons of people love to visit the farms in spring for the views. Plus, the local communities there usually have unique traditions and customs that you won't see and experience in cities. For example, many villages have ancestry temples¹⁸¹ where the local villagers who have a place on the family tree worship their ancestors¹⁸².

2. What do people usually do when going to a village?

I suppose that people are either visiting family or going to a tourist spot¹⁸³ when they go to a village. Sometimes villages have unique scenery that you can't find in major cities. So people might be travelling to see an ancient temple or some kind of natural wonder¹⁸⁴ like a waterfall. But I think it's more common for people to visit family or friends who live out in villages instead of the major hubs¹⁸⁵.

3. Do you think people will live in the village in the future?

I would say that more and more people are gravitating towards cities¹⁸⁶. There are usually more job opportunities there, especially if you want to work in fields like finance or technology. But villages are charming and more laid-back¹⁸⁷ than cities. So I'm sure there will always be people who prefer living in villages. Some people just can't adjust to the hustle and bustle of cities. They would rather live somewhere more relaxed.

4. Do you think everyone likes the countryside?

No, I don't think everyone enjoys the countryside. I mean, there are a lot of people who really like rural areas because they're much more relaxed and peaceful than cities. But on the other hand, some people need the busyness of a city in order to thrive¹⁸⁸. So they might hate being stuck out in the countryside¹⁸⁹. They might get bored with the slower pace of life¹⁹⁰. Plus, the countryside doesn't have as many opportunities as big cities. So that might be frustrating for some people as well.

见下页

¹⁸⁰ you're away from the hustle and bustle of major cities: 你会远离大城市的喧嚣

¹⁸¹ ancestry temples: 祠堂; 宗祠

¹⁸² the local villagers who have a place on the family tree worship their ancestors: 在家谱上有一席之地的当地村民祭拜他们的祖先

¹⁸³ going to a tourist spot: 去旅游景点

¹⁸⁴ natural wonder: 自然景观

¹⁸⁵ the major hubs: 大城市

¹⁸⁶ gravitating towards cities: 被吸引到城市

¹⁸⁷ laid-back: 悠闲放松

¹⁸⁸ need the busyness of a city in order to thrive: 需要在城市忙碌奋斗去实现(人生的)成长

¹⁸⁹ being stuck out in the countryside: 被困在乡下; 待在乡下

¹⁹⁰ the slower pace of life: 慢节奏的生活

5. Why do people want to go to the countryside?

I think people want to go to the countryside so they can relax. In the city, everything is so fast-paced. Wherever you turn, there's something going on¹⁹¹. Plus, it's super crowded. It's very easy to get overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of urban areas¹⁹². But in the countryside, there's much more space. You can enjoy the natural scenery without bumping up against people¹⁹³ or getting stuck in a crowded area. Life goes at a slower pace, which can be a nice change.

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¹⁹¹ Wherever you turn, there's something going on: 无论你去哪，都会遇到有意思的事情

¹⁹² the hustle and bustle of urban areas: 城市的熙熙攘

攘；城市的喧嚣

¹⁹³ bumping up against people: 走路撞到人；这里是一种比喻手法，形容城市人口拥挤

Topic 13 远距离步行

1. What outdoor activities do people like?

I think people like outdoor activities where they can get some exercise and socialize at the same time. For example, going for a walk is a great activity because you can enjoy the scenery¹⁹⁴ while catching up with your friends¹⁹⁵. Doing something more active like biking, swimming, or playing a sport can also be a good bonding experience¹⁹⁶ if you do it with others. It's a great way to spend time.

2. What are the differences between the outdoor activities children did in the past and now?

In the past, I suppose that children were a lot more imaginative. They liked playing games like cops and robbers where they would chase each other around¹⁹⁷. I also think they were much more active. In the old days, kids liked activities like climbing trees or catching bugs in the nature. Physical exercise was a big priority¹⁹⁸. But nowadays, kids are addicted to video games. Of course they do outdoor activities, like riding a scooter or playing with a frisbee¹⁹⁹, but you can often see kids watching cartoons or playing games on their phones or tablets when they are in a park, which is not good for their health.

3. Is leisure time important to everyone? Why?

Yes, definitely. Even if people like being busy, it's healthy for them to have a break every now and then²⁰⁰. They value their leisure time because it's a way for them to relieve the pressure of their everyday lives²⁰¹. Whether they're hanging out with family or friends or doing a fun recreational activity for themselves, leisure time helps them avoid getting overwhelmed by their responsibilities²⁰².

4. Do women have more leisure time than men?

No, I don't think so. Now that men and women are often both in the workforce, they tend to have an equal number of responsibilities²⁰³. In fact, depending on the situation, women are often busier than men because they may take on extra household duties²⁰⁴. In some families, the women are still expected to do more of the parenting, which keeps them busy as well. I would say it's a stereotype that²⁰⁵ women just sit around doing nothing while men are working.

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¹⁹⁴ enjoy the scenery: 欣赏风景

¹⁹⁵ catching up with your friends: 和朋友聊天

¹⁹⁶ a good bonding experience: 一个很好的增进感情的经历

¹⁹⁷ chase each other around: 互相追逐

¹⁹⁸ Physical exercise was a big priority: 体育锻炼是重中之重

¹⁹⁹ playing with a frisbee: 玩飞盘

²⁰⁰ have a break every now and then: 时不时休息一下

²⁰¹ relieve the pressure of their everyday lives: 缓解他们的日常生活压力

²⁰² avoid getting overwhelmed by their responsibilities: 避免被各种责任事情压垮(精神)

²⁰³ have an equal number of responsibilities: 有差不多的责任事情

²⁰⁴ take on extra household duties: 多做家务

²⁰⁵ it's a stereotype that: 这是一个刻板印象

Topic 14 想拥有的自行车/摩托车/汽车旅行

1. Why do more and more people drive private cars?

More and more people drive private cars because they are a very convenient option for²⁰⁶ transportation. Private cars offer more flexibility because you can pack them full²⁰⁷ if you're moving to a new home or packing for a long trip, or you can drive multiple people at once. You can't do that with a motorcycle or a bike. Also, if you don't own a private car, you may have to rely on public transportation or taxis to get around, which can be unreliable because you need to wait for them to come to you.

2. Which form of vehicle is more popular in your country, bikes, cars or motorcycles?

Well, given the traffic of most cities in China, cycling is still the most popular mode of transportation. It's true that a lot more Chinese families can afford cars, but driving a private car can be a pain in the neck²⁰⁸ because of things like parking, insurance and the risk of accidents. But if you ride, you won't have most of those concerns, so most people still prefer using bikes to go somewhere if it's not too far. Plus, bike sharing has swept across China²⁰⁹, which means it's easy and dirt-cheap²¹⁰ to rent a bike for a trip.

3. Do you think air pollution comes mostly from mobile vehicles?

No, I don't think that mobile vehicles are the leading cause of²¹¹ air pollution. They definitely contribute a lot to the problem, and we need to cut the use of mobile vehicles down²¹² wherever possible. But I think that a lot of air pollution comes from ships and trains and other forms of transportation as well. Factories also cause a ton of air pollution. You can see all the dark smoke that comes out of them.

见下页

²⁰⁶ a very convenient option for: 非常方便的(交通)选择

²⁰⁷ pack them full: 把他们装得满满的

²⁰⁸ be a pain in the neck: 是件令人头疼的事

²⁰⁹ bike sharing has swept across China: 共享单车已经

席卷了中国

²¹⁰ dirt-cheap: 非常便宜

²¹¹ the leading cause of: 造成...的主要原因

²¹² cut the use of mobile vehicles down: 减少机动车辆的使用

4. Do you think people need to change the way of transportation drastically to protect the environment?

No, I don't think it's worth it to change a lot about how people get around. After all, even if all of humanity stops using all kinds of transportation that consume fossil fuels²¹³, global warming won't get better because the damage has already been done. Besides, instead of subverting²¹⁴ the current transportation system, some minor improvements of people's choices for transportation will help reduce tons of carbon dioxide emissions²¹⁵, like carpooling²¹⁶ more, taking more public transportation and buying electric cars.

5. How are the transportation systems in urban areas and rural areas different?

As far as I know, urban and rural communities are extremely different when it comes to transportation systems. Compared with rural areas, urban areas are densely populated²¹⁷ and have more developed infrastructure, so urban residents have easier access to a network of public transit²¹⁸. But you'll never see public transportation that good in villages. People who live in the countryside normally ride a bike or just walk places within the territory as the residential area of a rural neighborhood can be very small.

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²¹³ fossil fuels: 化石燃料

²¹⁴ subverting: 颠覆

²¹⁵ reduce tons of carbon dioxide emissions: 减少大量的二氧化碳的排放

²¹⁶ carpooling: 拼车

²¹⁷ densely populated: 人口稠密

²¹⁸ have easier access to a network of public transit: 更容易使用到公共交通系统

Topic 15 想共度时光的人

1. What kind of people are easy to get along with?

I think people who are laidback and agreeable²¹⁹ are the easiest to get along with. If they're open to different kinds of people, you can trust them to get along with mostly anyone²²⁰. Plus, it's helpful when they aren't attention-seeking²²¹. You know, it's easy to hang out with someone who doesn't need to be the life of the party²²². They're content to just hang back and have a good time.

2. How do leaders get along with their subordinates?

I suppose that in general, leaders try to connect with their subordinates. In the past, it was more common for there to be a lot of distance between a manager and their employees. Companies usually had a strong corporate culture that emphasized hierarchy and didn't empower frontline employees that much²²³. But nowadays, leaders want to get to know the people who work for them. Of course, they still need to be professional and earn their employees' respect²²⁴. But I think they strive to make their employees feel respected and cared for so that they can be happy workers.

3. Do people have time for themselves nowadays?

I would say that most people struggle to have time for themselves. Most adults are working full-time jobs in addition to taking care of their families. It can be very difficult to find time to just kick back and relax²²⁵. It's hard for a lot of people to establish a good work-life balance. As the cost of living continues to increase, it just becomes more challenging to find some "me-time."²²⁶

4. Do you like talking with older people? Why?

Yes, I like talking with older people. I think they offer a unique perspective that I don't often get from people my age. They know a lot more about history, and they can share lots of details about what life used to be like. For example, I love having a chit-chat with my grandparents. They can always tell me some fun stories about them from when they were my age. What's more, older people have more life experience. So they usually have great advice because they have a good handle on things²²⁷. I like turning to them²²⁸ whenever I'm having a personal crisis.

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²¹⁹ laidback and agreeable: 性格随和讨喜的

²²⁰ you can trust them to get along with mostly anyone: 你可以相信，他们基本上是可以和任何人和睦相处的

²²¹ attention-seeking: 喜欢别人关注的；寻求关注的

²²² who doesn't need to be the life of the party: 一个不需要成为人群焦点的人；这里是指不喜欢成为人群中焦点的人

²²³ emphasized hierarchy and didn't empower frontline

employees that much: 强调上下级（等级制度），不给一线员工太多权力

²²⁴ earn their employees' respect: 赢得员工的尊重

²²⁵ kick back and relax: 放松休息

²²⁶ find some "me-time": 找到一些属于自己的时间

²²⁷ have a good handle on things: 处事妥当；善于处事

²²⁸ turning to them: 求助于他们

Topic 16 希望养成的习惯

1. What habits should children have? How can they have these habits?

I suppose that children should get into the habit of cleaning their rooms and picking up after themselves²²⁹. They should be aware of whatever mess they create, and they should take care of it as much as they can. It teaches them to be responsible and proactive²³⁰. They can develop these habits by doing simple tasks, like making their bed every day. Once they have enough practice, they'll become more cleanly.

2. What are the common habits of adults?

Well, there are some basic habits like having a good sleep schedule, eating balanced meals every day, and having good hygiene by flossing²³¹ and brushing your teeth. Most people would consider those essential habits²³² to develop if you really want to act like an adult. Unlike young people, adults avoid staying out late and partying all the time. Adults also do things like exercising regularly, budgeting²³³, and handling other responsibilities like paying bills.

3. What should parents do to teach their children good habits?

I think that parents should first demonstrate the good habits themselves²³⁴. Children learn from observation²³⁵, and if they see their parents doing things like regularly flossing or eating breakfast every day, then they'll be motivated to do those same activities. Parents should also explain the importance of developing good habits to their kids. If children understand the importance and the benefits of those habits, they'll be inclined to²³⁶ develop them as well.

4. Should adults encourage good habits in children by talking to them or by leading by example?

I suppose that parents need to do both - they should explain why having good habits is important, and they should lead by example²³⁷. Children need to see good habits in action²³⁸ in order to develop their own good habits and positive routines, so it is very important that they see their parents demonstrating good habits when they are growing up. Children often mimic their parents' behaviour²³⁹, so parents need to be very aware of this.

见下页

²²⁹ picking up after themselves: 收拾自己的东西

²³⁰ proactive: 积极主动

²³¹ flossing: (用牙线) 清洁牙齿

²³² essential habits: 必不可少的习惯

²³³ budgeting: 做生活预算

²³⁴ demonstrate the good habits themselves: 亲自展示好

的习惯

²³⁵ learn from observation: 从观察中学习

²³⁶ be inclined to: 会倾向于

²³⁷ lead by example: 以身作则

²³⁸ see good habits in action: 在行动中看到好习惯

²³⁹ mimic their parents' behavior: 模仿父母的行为

5. What influences do children with bad habits have on other children?

Well, children are heavily influenced by what their peers do. Kids just want to fit in with their friends²⁴⁰. So if they see their friends developing bad habits, like skipping school²⁴¹ or being rude to their teachers and parents, they might pick up those habits as well. Children with good habits can easily be swayed by children with bad habits to develop poor behaviour. Plus, if kids with bad habits are seen as cool, children will be even more motivated to imitate them. It's definitely a big concern.

6. Why do some habits change when people get older? How do people's habits change as they get older?

I think that some people just outgrow their habits²⁴² because they don't support their lifestyle anymore²⁴³. For example, young people might get into the habit of staying up late and partying a lot because they don't have a lot of responsibilities. But as they get older and have to manage full-time jobs and other duties, they'll start going to bed early and staying in on the weekends. People's habits grow and change right along with them²⁴⁴.

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²⁴⁰ fit in with their friends: 融入他们的朋友

²⁴¹ skipping school: 逃学

²⁴² outgrow their habits: 超过他们的习惯

²⁴³ they don't support their lifestyle anymore: 他们不再

支持(认同)自己的生活方式

²⁴⁴ grow and change right along with them: 随着他们的成长而改变

Topic 17 早起的经历

1. What time do you usually get up? And Do you like getting up early?

I usually get up at 7am so that I can be at work for 8:30. I like getting up early in the spring and summer because the sun naturally wakes me up²⁴⁵, but in the winter where I live it is quite dark in the mornings, so I don't like to get up too early in the winter. I like that getting up early gives me time to enjoy a coffee before work, but sometimes I wish I could sleep in²⁴⁶ more often.

2. Do you know anyone who likes to get up early?

My mom has always loved waking up early. She's usually awake by 5am. She likes to go for her morning walk²⁴⁷ for about an hour, and then she takes a shower and makes breakfast. I think that the reason she is able to wake up so early is that she also goes to bed early, usually around 9pm. If she went to bed any later²⁴⁸ she probably wouldn't be getting enough sleep.

3. Why do some people get up early? Why do some people hate getting up early?

Some people get up early because they have to for work or for school, and some people get up early because they enjoy it. These people might like having some extra time to relax in the morning²⁴⁹ before they begin their day. As for why some people hate getting up early, I think it's mainly because they struggle to wake up²⁵⁰, maybe as a result of going to bed late²⁵¹. These people may feel tired all day if they get up early.

4. Why do some people like to stay up late?

I think some people like staying up late because they're more energetic at night. Night owls²⁵² are really good at being productive late into the night. For whatever reason²⁵³, they just work better at that time. Personally, I like staying up late because it's quieter in my house since everyone has gone to sleep. Other people like staying up late because there are exciting activities that happen at night, like parties and concerts.

见下页

²⁴⁵ the sun naturally wakes me up: 太阳会自然地让我醒过来

²⁴⁶ sleep in: 赖床

²⁴⁷ go for her morning walk: 早上去散步

²⁴⁸ went to bed any later: 晚一点上床睡觉

²⁴⁹ having some extra time to relax in the morning: 早

上有一些额外的时间来放松

²⁵⁰ struggle to wake up: 挣扎着醒来

²⁵¹ as a result of going to bed late: 因为睡得晚的原因

²⁵² Night owls: 夜猫子

²⁵³ For whatever reason: 无论出于何种原因

5. Do you think morning is the best time of day?

Personally I think that evening is the best time of day, because it is the end of the work or school day and you have time to kick back and relax²⁵⁴. I do like mornings, but I wouldn't say that they are the best time of the day because mornings can be quite stressful. If you are getting ready for work or school and you're running late²⁵⁵, then your morning isn't very enjoyable.

6. What kinds of occasions need people to arrive early?

Most people try to arrive early for formal ceremonies such as a wedding or a funeral. This is because these events require a large amount of organization and planning, so it is very important that no one arrives late in order to avoid interruptions²⁵⁶. People may also arrive early to an airport or train station when they are travelling. Most international flights recommend that you arrive three hours early²⁵⁷ in order to get through airport security²⁵⁸, so arriving early is a good idea for travellers.

7. What happens if you arrive early or late?

When you arrive somewhere early, you have lots of time to settle in²⁵⁹. If you're there for an event, it's nice to get there early so you can find a seat or use the bathroom if you need to. But if you arrive late, it can be super stressful. It really depends on the event. Being late to a party is fine, but being late to a meeting or a class is really disruptive²⁶⁰. You should avoid being late if you can.

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²⁵⁴ kick back and relax: 放松休息

²⁵⁵ you're running late: 你要迟到了

²⁵⁶ in order to avoid interruptions: 以避免被干扰打断

²⁵⁷ recommend that you arrive three hours early: 建议提前三小时到 (请注意对 recommend 常用句型做积

累)

²⁵⁸ get through airport security: 通过安检

²⁵⁹ you have lots of time to settle in: 你有很多时间来适应准备

²⁶⁰ disruptive: 引起混乱的

Topic 18 不喜欢的规则

1. What are the rules students should follow at school?

I suppose that a good rule to start with is respecting everyone at school. Whether it's their teachers or their peers, students need to act courteously towards others²⁶¹. They shouldn't be rude to people or harass them in any way²⁶². I also think that students should try to show up to class on time and avoid interrupting lessons. It can be very distracting to the other students who are trying to learn.

2. Are the rules at school good or bad? Why?

Well, for the most part²⁶³, rules at school are good. They help keep everything in order²⁶⁴. They can also remind students of what behaviour they should be exhibiting. For example, rules that forbid bullying are important because they keep everyone in line²⁶⁵. However, some rules can be a little over the top²⁶⁶. For example, some schools forbid female students from having long hair, which sounds ridiculous. If there are too many unnecessary rules, students might just get frustrated at school.

3. What rules should children follow at home?

I think children should follow some basic rules, like going to bed on time and only watching TV when their parents allow them to. They need to listen to their parents when it comes to their daily schedule. Generally speaking, parents know what's best for them. The rules at home are often set for the sake of the children's growth²⁶⁷, both mentally and physically. So children need to listen to their parents and follow their rules.

4. How are people punished when parking in a wrong spot?

In most cases, people get punished for parking in the wrong spot by getting a ticket. That ticket usually comes with a hefty fine²⁶⁸. Most people think parking tickets are ridiculous, and that it doesn't make sense to have to pay for parking in the wrong spot. But in some cases, it's deserved²⁶⁹. If you park in front of a fire hydrant²⁷⁰, for instance, you might make it harder for the firefighters if an emergency happened.

见下页

²⁶¹ act courteously towards others: 礼貌待人

²⁶² They shouldn't be rude to people or harass them in any way: 他们不应该对人无礼或以任何方式骚扰他们

²⁶³ for the most part: 在大多数情况下

²⁶⁴ keep everything in order: 让一切井然有序

²⁶⁵ keep everyone in line: 让每个人都守规矩

²⁶⁶ over the top: 有点过头

²⁶⁷ for the sake of the children's growth: 为了孩子的成长

²⁶⁸ That ticket usually comes with a hefty fine: 那种罚单通常伴随着巨额罚款

²⁶⁹ it's deserved: 这是活该的; 这是应当的

²⁷⁰ a fire hydrant: 一个消防栓

5. Do people in your country often break rules?

No, I think that in most cases, people in my country are very law-abiding²⁷¹. But of course, there are always exceptions²⁷². If anyone is breaking the rules on a regular basis, it's probably related to traffic laws. So many drivers just speed because they're in a rush²⁷³, especially during the work week. But when it comes to something more serious, like the lockdowns and mandatory testing for Covid-19²⁷⁴, it's rare to see²⁷⁵ Chinese people break the rules.

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²⁷¹ law-abiding: 守法的

²⁷² of course, there are always exceptions: 当然，凡事都有例外

²⁷³ they're in a rush: 他们在着急

²⁷⁴ mandatory testing for Covid-19: 强制新冠核酸检测

²⁷⁵ it's rare to see: 很少见

Topic 19 咖啡馆

1. What kind of people would like to go to a café?

I think young adults like going to a café. When you're a kid or a teenager, cafés aren't entertaining enough to hang out at. But when you're in your twenties²⁷⁶, they're a nice place to meet up with your friends after work or on the weekends. Plus, retired people also like going to cafés because the environment there is super relaxed. It's a nice place to have a chat over coffee or tea.

2. Why do young people like studying in a café instead of at home?

It seems to me that young people like studying at a café instead of at home because it's a nice change of scene²⁷⁷. When you're studying at home, you might get sick of being in the same place all the time²⁷⁸. Plus, you can get distracted by your roommates or family members. Cafés offer a nice, relatively quiet atmosphere²⁷⁹ where you can focus on your own thing. It also makes studying a more appealing activity because you can enjoy a nice tea or coffee while you work.

3. Do Chinese people like to go to a café? If not, what are their social places?

Well, although not every Chinese person loves going to a café, there are more young people who have adapted to coffee culture²⁸⁰, and enjoy drinking coffee and hanging out with their friends at coffee shops. It's a trend. But honestly, older people in China, like people of my parents' generation²⁸¹, rarely go to a cafe. They are more used to having a meal with others at a restaurant to socialize.

4. Do older people in China like drinking coffee?

No, I don't think so. As far as I know, most middle-aged and senior people don't have the habit of drinking coffee. Very few of them have taken a liking to²⁸² coffee. I think it's mainly because they didn't grow up with a coffee culture²⁸³. Instead, they were surrounded by a strong tea culture. Plus, it's true that coffee is fairly new in China and just got popular. I bet 30 or 40 years later when young people get older, there will be way more regular coffee drinkers than today.

见下页

²⁷⁶ in your twenties: 在你二十多岁的时候

²⁷⁷ it's a nice change of scene: 一个很好的地方去换个环境（学习）

²⁷⁸ get sick of being in the same place all the time: 总是呆在同一个地方会感到厌烦

²⁷⁹ relatively quiet atmosphere: 相对安静的气氛

²⁸⁰ have adapted to coffee culture: 已经适应了咖啡文化

²⁸¹ people of my parents' generation: 我父母那一代的人

²⁸² taken a liking to: 爱好，喜欢

²⁸³ didn't grow up with a coffee culture: 没有在咖啡文化中长大；长大的过程中没有咖啡文化

5. Do young people like to invite their friends to their home? Why?

Yes, I suppose that young people like to invite friends to their home for a few reasons. Inviting friends home is a great way to get to know them outside of school²⁸⁴. Sometimes school is too busy to really get to spend a lot of time with your friends, so inviting them home is a great option. Children also like to show their friends their space²⁸⁵ and get to know their families.

6. What do you usually do when you come to the house?

When I get home, I usually get changed right away into comfortable clothes²⁸⁶ if I know that I do not need to go out again. Then I make a tea, and I will settle down to²⁸⁷ read or watch TV. Sometimes if I have friends coming over I will clean the house and prepare a snack or meal for them. I may also study at home or do more work if there is something that I did not get done during the day.

7. What is the difference between a cafe and a restaurant?

Cafés are usually more relaxed. They also tend to be smaller. Instead of full meals, they offer snacks and beverages like coffee and tea. They're designed more for casual outings²⁸⁸, like catching up with a friend over a hot drink. Restaurants, on the other hand, are usually fancier places where people go to enjoy a nice meal. Sometimes they celebrate special occasions like birthdays or graduations. Plus, restaurants are more expensive since they offer meals instead of snacks.

见下页

²⁸⁴ get to know them outside of school: 在学校以外了解他们

²⁸⁵ show their friends their space: 给他们的朋友展示他们的空间 (指私人生活空间)

²⁸⁶ get changed right away into comfortable clothes: 马上换上舒适的衣服

²⁸⁷ settle down to: 坐下来; 安定下来专心去...

²⁸⁸ designed more for casual outings: 专为在外休闲设计; 专门设计来出门休闲的地方

8. Do people prefer to have parties at cafes or restaurants?

It seems to me that people prefer having parties at restaurants. Cafes are better for more casual hangouts²⁸⁹, like if you're just meeting up with a couple friends. But with restaurants, you can plan ahead and make a reservation for²⁹⁰ a larger group. In most cases²⁹¹, you can even reserve a whole room for your party. I know lots of people who've had birthday parties or graduation parties at a nice restaurant. It can be really fun.

9. Do coffee shops in China sell tea? Are coffee shops that different in different countries?

Yes, most coffee shops in China sell tea. In fact, selling tea or milk tea is a lot more profitable than selling coffee for many Chinese coffee shops as China has a thousand-year tradition of drinking tea. Coffee culture still has a long way to go to conquer China²⁹². I also believe coffee shops in different countries have different features, since it's a must to adapt to the local culture²⁹³ and local people's drink preferences. It shows respect to customers of the country and provides a new source of revenue.

10. Do Chinese people like to drink coffee?

I think it's a mixed bag²⁹⁴. The younger generations like drinking coffee. You can find them enjoying a cup of coffee in the afternoon while they take a break from studying. Or you might see them walking around with a huge cup of coffee to stay awake for an all-nighter²⁹⁵. But older people don't like coffee as much. They're more used to tea²⁹⁶, which is definitely the more traditional beverage in China.

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²⁸⁹ casual hangouts: 休闲场所

²⁹⁰ plan ahead and make a reservation for: 提前计划并预定座位

²⁹¹ In most cases: 大部分情况下

²⁹² Coffee culture still has a long way to go to conquer China: 咖啡文化要征服中国还有很长的路要走

²⁹³ it's a must to adapt to the local culture: 必须要适应当地文化

²⁹⁴ it's a mixed bag: 有各种不同的情况; 表示事情需要分情况看

²⁹⁵ stay awake for an all-nighter: 熬夜, 通宵, 开夜车

²⁹⁶ They're more used to tea: 他们更习惯喝茶

Topic 20 机智解决问题的人

1. Do you think children are born smart or they learn to become smart?

I think that there is a very interesting debate about nature vs. nurture. The central question of this debate is²⁹⁷ whether children are born with their personality and skills, or if they develop into these traits. Personally, I suppose that it is a combination of both²⁹⁸. Some people are born naturally gifted with a high level of intelligence²⁹⁹, whereas others have learning disabilities³⁰⁰ that may affect their intelligence. Nonetheless, any child can become more intelligent with the proper supports and education.

2. How do children become smart at school?

It seems to me that children usually become smart at school by applying themselves and being open to learning new things³⁰¹. They have to work hard at a subject in order to master it. That requires doing all the homework and persevering even when it gets hard³⁰². But they also have to adapt to new material and ways of learning. For example, their teacher might teach them something using a hands-on method. So they have to learn how to work with that method in order to get smarter.

3. Why are some people well-rounded and others only good at one thing?

Being well-rounded or being good at one thing depends on your personality, as well as the amount of effort you put into different aspects of your life³⁰³. Some people find one thing that they are good at and throw all of their effort into that one thing³⁰⁴, becoming experts. Others do not have one passion, but rather prefer to develop many different talents. Either way, most people tend to focus on things they are good at rather than things they struggle with.

见下页

²⁹⁷ The central question of this debate is: 这个讨论的核心问题是

²⁹⁸ it is a combination of both: 它是两者的结合

²⁹⁹ naturally gifted with a high level of intelligence: 天生具有高智商的; 天生智力超群

³⁰⁰ have learning disabilities: 有学习障碍

³⁰¹ by applying themselves and being open to learning

new things: 因为他们专心于并且乐于学习新事物

³⁰² persevering even when it gets hard: 即使遇到困难也要坚持不懈

³⁰³ the amount of effort you put into different aspects of your life: 你在生活的各个方面所付出的努力

³⁰⁴ throw all of their effort into that one thing: 把所有的努力都投入到这一件事(一个东西)上

4. Why does modern society need talents of all kinds?

Well, modern society needs talents of all kinds because that is the best way to have a healthy workforce³⁰⁵ and consequently a healthy society. If everyone was good at science and became doctors, then no one would become an author or a teacher or a business person. It is much better to have a multit talented society³⁰⁶ so that everyone can contribute something different. We need just as many artists as we need accountants.

5. Do you think clever people are bad at some things? What things can clever people be bad at?

I think that everybody has weaknesses, no matter how smart or clever they are. But when it comes to what clever people in particular might struggle with, it really depends on what they're clever at. For instance, someone who's really quick with numbers³⁰⁷ might have a hard time writing a good essay, and vice versa³⁰⁸. Or someone who's very smart and has a quick wit³⁰⁹ might be bad at being empathetic³¹⁰. There are different ways to measure intelligence.

6. What role can a good teacher play in a student's learning?

Well, a good teacher plays a huge part in³¹¹ a student's education. A good teacher who can effectively teach a lesson can help a student grasp the material quickly. As a result, that student can get a good grade and feel confident about learning. But beyond that³¹², a good teacher can encourage a student whenever they have difficulty. That helps the student know that they're worth more than just a grade³¹³.

7. Do the people around you have special skills?

Well, I'm friends with people who³¹⁴ have studied other subjects, so to me it feels like they have special skills. I know some people who are science majors, so they're able to figure out complex equations³¹⁵ and solve difficult problems. I have a friend who works in construction, so they're also very handy³¹⁶ and are good with tools in a way that I'm not. It's cool to know people with different specialties. It makes me appreciate everyone's differences.

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³⁰⁵ have a healthy workforce: 拥有健康的劳动力（这里是指社会的总体劳动力或人力）

³⁰⁶ have a multit talented society: 多姿多彩的社会；有各种才能充斥其中的社会

³⁰⁷ quick with numbers: 对数字反应很快的人；算数很快的人

³⁰⁸ and vice versa: 反之亦然

³⁰⁹ has a quick wit: 机智敏捷

³¹⁰ be bad at being empathetic: 不善于换位思考；不

太有同理心

³¹¹ plays a huge part in: 起着很大的作用

³¹² beyond that: 除此之外

³¹³ they're worth more than just a grade: 他们的价值不仅仅是一个分数

³¹⁴ I'm friends with people who: 我和...是朋友；我的朋友都是...

³¹⁵ figure out complex equations: 解出复杂的方程

³¹⁶ handy: 方便

Topic 21 对社会有贡献的人

1. What jobs are well-paid?

There are lots of jobs that pay well. For example, nowadays programmers, especially the good ones who graduated from top-level universities, can easily find high-paying jobs, which is also why tons of college graduates flock to³¹⁷ IT companies. Besides, being a lawyer is a good profession to make top dollar³¹⁸, especially if you're in a high-ranking position³¹⁹. After all, lawyers always have to deal with tons of complex matters.

2. What are the changes in working conditions?

I suppose that in general, working conditions have improved. Overall speaking, workers definitely have more rights than they used to, and I think that's been reflected in working conditions. A lot of jobs are more accommodating for any special needs³²⁰, and they don't usually overwork people as much³²¹. For example, I know there are more companies that have started allowing workers to take a nap after lunch and some of them even provide lounge chairs.

3. What are the impacts of the epidemic on the work environment?

Well, one impact of the epidemic is that many work environments have become remote. So many people are working from home now, which is great for some people but more challenging for others, like parents who have young children at home. Going forward³²², that might mean that a majority of jobs can be done online. That'll definitely change the way people get jobs. And impact is that many jobs that can't be done remotely, like retail and tour guides, might be gone for good³²³ because of the lockdowns during the pandemic.

见下页

³¹⁷ flock to: 蜂拥而至

³¹⁸ make top dollar: 赚大钱

³¹⁹ in a high-ranking position: 身居高位

³²⁰ more accommodating for any special needs: 更能适应一些特殊需求; 意思是更能满足员工的一些特殊

需求

³²¹ they don't usually overwork people as much: 他们通常不会让员工过度工作

³²² Going forward: 未来

³²³ might be gone for good: 可能永远的消失

4. Which jobs in your country have low wages? Why are their wages low?

Unfortunately, a lot of essential jobs have low wages. People who work in the service industry don't get paid a lot. They usually just get minimum wage³²⁴. People who do manual labour also have low wages. For example, factory workers and labourers are some of the lowest-paying jobs. It's such a shame³²⁵ because those jobs are really important for keeping society functioning³²⁶. But it also makes sense that those jobs don't require much skills and education, which means the workers doing those jobs can be easily replaced.

5. What working skills or skills useful for work should be taught to high school students?

It seems to me that high school students should have to study accounting. A lot of high schools already have this kind of class in their curriculum, but it's not often a required course³²⁷. I think learning how to do that kind of math is really helpful for lots of jobs in business or finance. High school students should also learn some basic technology skills. They should be exposed to different software and learn how to use a computer well.

6. What working skills or skills useful for work should be taught to college students?

I think that college students should learn how to write well. They don't need to take creative writing classes by any means³²⁸, but they should learn how to communicate well and make a persuasive argument. It will help them advance in their careers³²⁹, no matter what field they go into. It might also be helpful for them to learn coding. It might seem weird, but coding comes up in a surprisingly high number of jobs³³⁰.

7. Do you think younger people should be lower-paid than older people?

No, I don't think that younger people should be paid less than older people if they are performing the same job at the same level of experience³³¹. However, if an older person has been working at a company for many years, they may have a higher level of pay³³² due to their experience, and that is normal. If two people start a new job at the same time, one young and one old, they should be paid the same salary. Age does not automatically guarantee more pay³³³.

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³²⁴ get minimum wage: 拿最低工资

³²⁵ It's such a shame: 这是非常令人遗憾的

³²⁶ keeping society functioning: 保持社会正常运转

³²⁷ a required course: 必修课

³²⁸ by any means: 不管怎么说

³²⁹ help them advance in their careers: 帮助他们在事业上取得进步

³³⁰ comes up in a surprisingly high number of jobs: 令

人惊讶的，编程在大量工作中都有出现；意指“是有大量和编程相关的工作”

³³¹ performing the same job at the same level of experience: 在相同的工作和经验水平上

³³² have a higher level of pay: 有更高的工资水平

³³³ Age does not automatically guarantee more pay: 年龄并不能必然的保证更高的工资

Topic 22 别人讲述的故事

1. Do young children like the same stories as older children?

No, I think that young children have different tastes in stories than older children. Preschoolers and even older children tend to like stories that have a lot of action and more complicated plots³³⁴. They might get bored if the story isn't complex enough. But toddlers like stories that are simple and fun. They like stories that aren't too scary or thrilling. Emm... they also like really silly stories. I once saw kids giggling just by looking at a photo of a kid playing on a swing in a children's book. Anything that's light and entertaining³³⁵ is good for them.

2. How has technology changed storytelling?

Well, I believe technology has really opened up the possibilities for storytelling³³⁶. Animation is a great example. In the past, animation looked very plain³³⁷ and wasn't very impressive. But now, thanks to all the new software that's out there³³⁸, animation can look almost as convincing as real life. There are so many different art styles that can be used in animation, which helps create really interesting and beautiful stories for moviegoers³³⁹.

3. How do people tell stories to children?

I think people usually simplify things when they tell stories to children, which can help children understand the stories easily. Besides, adults usually don't want to expose their children to anything too dark or adult for them³⁴⁰. So they tell stories that are just fun and entertaining. Sometimes, they even use silly voices to make the kids laugh³⁴¹. Telling stories to kids is all about keeping them smiling and having fun. So it's best to avoid anything too serious or mature.

见下页

³³⁴ complicated plots: 复杂的情节

³³⁵ light and entertaining: 轻松有趣

³³⁶ opened up the possibilities for storytelling: 为讲故事 (的方式方法) 打开了更多可能性

³³⁷ looked very plain: 看起来很平淡; 看起来很一般

³³⁸ thanks to all the new software that's out there: 多亏

了那些新软件

³³⁹ moviegoers: 影迷; 常看电影的人

³⁴⁰ too dark or adult for them: 对他们来说太黑暗或太成人化了

³⁴¹ use silly voices to make the kids laugh: 用傻乎乎的声音逗孩子笑

4. Why do children like stories?

Simply put³⁴², children like stories because they're entertaining. When you listen to a really good story, you get totally wrapped up in it³⁴³. Stories are distracting, but in a fun way. They can make you laugh, or they can even make you cry. Besides, when children listen to stories, they get to learn about the world in a sense³⁴⁴. Stories help them understand some more serious topics, but in a way that isn't too overwhelming. For example, the story of the rabbit and the turtle helps children understand the meaning of perseverance more easily.

5. Some children watch TV for a long time; do you think that is good or not?

Well, most homes nowadays have a television in addition to computers and tablets, so children can watch TV anytime, anywhere. I don't think this is a good thing because children might become addicted to TV and never get any physical exercise or social interaction. Actually I think that having limits on screen time³⁴⁵ for kids is a good idea. Every family is different, but generally speaking, kids need to spend more face to face time with their family and friends. And spending more time outside instead of watching TV is very helpful to their physical development as well.

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³⁴² Simply put: 简单来说

³⁴³ get totally wrapped up in it: 完全沉浸在其中

³⁴⁴ learn about the world in a sense: 从某种意义上去了

解或认识这个世界

³⁴⁵ having limits on screen time: 有看电子屏幕（比如电视或平板电脑）的时间限制

Topic 23 一见且想再见的人

1. What are the ways to make new friends?

As far as I know, people usually make new friends by going to parties or social events. They just introduce themselves and then they go from there³⁴⁶. Or they make friends with the people who are naturally around them³⁴⁷. For instance, they might become friends with their coworkers. Or if they're at school, they can become friends with their classmates. Some people even make friends online. It sounds funny, but it's very common nowadays.

2. What qualities make a good friend?

It seems to me that a good friend is someone who is patient and kind. They can keep a level head³⁴⁸, even when you're in an argument. They should also be reliable. You can count on them, no matter what³⁴⁹. So they should be someone that you can turn to when you are having a bad day. Besides, a good friend should have some common interests. It can be hard to develop a strong bond if you don't share any interest or hobbies.

3. How do you maintain friendships?

Friendships can be very hard to maintain. Nowadays, people are so consumed with their work or studies³⁵⁰, to the point that³⁵¹ they can start to neglect their personal relationships. But in order to maintain a friendship, both parties have to make each other a priority³⁵². It means that you have to prioritize your friends, even when you have lots of other things to take care of. You should also make sure that you communicate your needs. If you start to feel neglected, you need to be comfortable expressing that to the other person.

见下页

³⁴⁶ go from there: (从这里起步) 逐步发展 (关系)

³⁴⁷ the people who are naturally around them: 身边的人

³⁴⁸ keep a level head: 保持头脑冷静

³⁴⁹ You can count on them, no matter what: 不管什么情况, 你都可以依靠他们

³⁵⁰ are so consumed with their work or studies: 如此沉迷于他们的工作或学习; 如此埋头于工作学习

³⁵¹ to the point that: 以至于

³⁵² both parties have to make each other a priority: 双方都要优先为对方考虑

4. On what occasions do people like to make friends?

I think people like making friends when they're in a new environment. For example, when young people go to university, they want to make friends in their classes so they have a friendly face in this new setting³⁵³. It's also nice to make friends outside of class, so that they can have people to help them out as they adjust to university life. People also like making friends at their jobs. Getting along with your coworkers can make a world of difference³⁵⁴.

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

I suppose that having some similar hobbies and interests as your friends is important, but not essential. Making friends can be easier if you have more in common with them. Many people become friends as a result of their similarities³⁵⁵, and they stay friends for a very long time because of those interests. However, as the saying goes, opposites attract³⁵⁶; some people are best friends with people who are nothing like them. It's okay if you like singing but your friend likes boating. A difference in hobbies won't prevent you from becoming good friends. People can enjoy each other's interests and learn a lot from each other.

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³⁵³ have a friendly face in this new setting: 在新的环境中就会有一张友善的脸; 这句话是指能有一个人对他人友善

³⁵⁴ make a world of difference: 带来很大的不同; 至关重要

³⁵⁵ as a result of their similarities: 因为(由于)他们的相似之处

³⁵⁶ as the saying goes, opposites attract: 正如俗话说, 异性相吸

Topic 24 和朋友有趣的讨论

1. When do children normally form their own views?

It seems to me that children usually form their own views when they're in elementary school. When they're really little, they don't really pay attention to their worldviews. But as they grow up and start learning about the world in class, they begin to form opinions on things. For example, they might start getting ideas about how they want to treat people, and how they want to be treated in return³⁵⁷. They may also start developing their views on other cultures when they learn about them in school.

2. Do children have strong opinions?

Yes, I think children have strong opinions. They may not be as informed as adults³⁵⁸, but I don't think that matters as much. As kids are growing up, they may feel very strongly about their opinions because it's all they know. Instead of being able to consider multiple perspectives and adjust their opinions, they focus on what they're familiar with. So they can be very passionate about what they believe, even if they're not entirely sure why they believe it. For example, sometimes you can't talk children down³⁵⁹ when they want to go out and play on a snowy day, even if you tell them it's unsafe to be in the snow.

3. Should parents request their kids to obey them?

I suppose that to a degree³⁶⁰, parents should request that their kids listen to them. There may be some cases where the parents go too far with parenting³⁶¹. Children could lose their confidence in making decisions bit by bit. They might second guess everything they've decided their own. However, for the most part, parents should have authority over their kids³⁶². Most of the time, they know what's best. For example, they should make sure children listen to their commands seriously when they're doing something risky, like crossing a street without looking.

4. In what industries do you think communication is a necessary skill?

Well, communication is a necessary skill in most industries, but especially business and other customer-oriented fields³⁶³. For example, you need to be a good communicator if you're trying to make transactions with people³⁶⁴, whether they're customers or clients that represent other businesses. Besides, if you're working in the service industry, you need to have good people-skills³⁶⁵. It's not uncommon to see tons of customer complaints caused by miscommunication. Communication is also really important if you work in education, since effective learning comes from good communication.

见下页

³⁵⁷ how they want to be treated in return: 希望他人如何回报对待自己

³⁵⁸ as informed as adults: 像成年人那样见多识广

³⁵⁹ you can't talk children down: 你无法说服孩子

³⁶⁰ to a degree: 在一定程度上

³⁶¹ parents go too far with parenting: 父母在教育孩子方面做得太过火了

³⁶² have authority over their kids: 在孩子面前有权威; 能管得住孩子

³⁶³ customer-oriented fields: 以客户为导向的领域

³⁶⁴ make transactions with people: 与人进行交易; 和人做买卖

³⁶⁵ have good people-skills: 有良好的人际沟通能力

5. How to be a good listener?

Being a good listener is a really difficult skill to master. Many people listen with the intention of giving advice, or relating it to their own lives in some way³⁶⁶. This technique can be helpful, but sometimes it can be a hindrance³⁶⁷. Some people want to be listened to, but they don't want advice. They just want to say how they feel and be supported. In order to be a good listener, you should ask the person if they want your opinion, or if they just want to vent³⁶⁸.

6. At what age do kids start picking up a hobby or interest?

I think kids usually start picking up a hobby or interest when they're five or six. Around that age, they have a better sense of³⁶⁹ their personality and what they're interested in. They're also exposed to more options³⁷⁰. You can't do that many activities when you're super young. But as you get older, you can try out different things. Whether that's playing a sport or starting to learn an instrument, by about age 6³⁷¹, kids can start trying new things and finding what suits them.

7. What is the importance of listening?

Listening is very important because communication is dependent on it. You cannot have good communication, or a good relationship, without effective listening skills. If someone feels that they are not being listened to, they may become upset or resentful³⁷². It might end up affecting the relationship, or even cause a falling out³⁷³. So, listening is how we show people that we care about their views. Being a good listener can help you in your relationships with family, friends, your significant other, and your work colleagues.

8. Do children often express and share their views with others?

I don't think every kid does that. It's true that some kids naturally love sharing their thoughts with others, like family or friends. But as far as I know, many kids who are introverted often hate talking about what they think with others. Plus, strict parenting³⁷⁴ can cause children to be afraid of expressing their views. You know, some parents are harsh with³⁷⁵ their children and often criticize them whenever they speak. Children growing up in those families can be very reluctant to³⁷⁶ express themselves.

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³⁶⁶ relating it to their own lives in some way: 以某种方式将其与自己的生活联系起来

³⁶⁷ a hindrance: 一个阻碍

³⁶⁸ just want to vent: 只想说出来; 只想口头发泄一下

³⁶⁹ have a better sense of: 能更好的感觉到...; 更能感觉到...

³⁷⁰ exposed to more options: 有更多的选择

³⁷¹ by about age 6: 大约在 6 岁时

³⁷² resentful: 令人气愤的

³⁷³ falling out: 吵架; 争吵

³⁷⁴ strict parenting: 严格的家教

³⁷⁵ are harsh with: 对...严厉

³⁷⁶ be very reluctant to: 非常不愿意去...

Topic 25 小学印象最深的人

1. Why do people always miss their childhood?

I think people miss their childhood because it's often much more stressful and complicated to be an adult. When you're older, you have way more responsibilities than you did when you were a kid. Instead of your main priority being playtime with your friends³⁷⁷, you have to pay bills, handle a full-time job, and in some cases take care of your own children. So compared to all the stress of adulthood, childhood seems like a much better time of life. It's easy for people to be nostalgic³⁷⁸.

2. Are kids happier than adults? Why?

I suppose that in some ways³⁷⁹, kids are happier than adults. When you're a kid, it's not that hard to have all your needs met³⁸⁰. You don't have to worry about paying bills or working at a full-time job like adults do. Kids are content with³⁸¹ simple things, like hanging out with their friends. As an adult, you have way more responsibilities and way more stress. So it's harder to find happiness.

3. What do people generally remember about elementary school?

I would say that people usually remember the friends they made in elementary school. They might remember some cool experiences from a class, or even one interesting lesson. But as time goes by³⁸², the thing that stands out the most is³⁸³ the people that they met. A lot of people might not remember much about their time in elementary school, but they do remember the good friends they had and keep a lifelong friendship with them³⁸⁴.

见下页

³⁷⁷ your main priority being playtime with your friends:

首要任务是和朋友玩耍

³⁷⁸ nostalgic: 怀旧的

³⁷⁹ in some ways: 在某些方面

³⁸⁰ have all your needs met: 满足你所有的需求

³⁸¹ are content with: 满足于

³⁸² as time goes by: 随着时间的流逝

³⁸³ the thing that stands out the most is: 印象中最突出的还是

³⁸⁴ keep a lifelong friendship with them: 和他们保持一生的友谊

4. Why do people still remember many of their friends from primary school?

I think it's because primary school is a really formative time of people's lives³⁸⁵. When you're young, you're learning about the world for the first time. And the people that you learn with make a huge impression on you³⁸⁶. It seems to me that most people can remember their childhood friends because they went through lots of important first experiences together. It's really sweet how those childhood bonds can last throughout your lifetime³⁸⁷.

5. What kinds of primary school teachers will impress students?

I suppose that students are most impressed by primary school teachers who are engaging³⁸⁸, enthusiastic, and caring. Children in primary school are very young, and they have a short attention span³⁸⁹, so the teacher needs to be interesting enough and to plan enough engaging activities to keep students focused. Teachers also need to be kind and caring so that students feel comfortable coming to them³⁹⁰ if they have a problem.

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³⁸⁵ a really formative time of people's lives: 这是人们一生中真正形成性格的时期

³⁸⁶ make a huge impression on you: 给你留下深刻的印象

³⁸⁷ It's really sweet how those childhood bonds can last

throughout your lifetime: 这些童年的纽带能贯穿你的一生，真是太甜蜜了

³⁸⁸ engaging: 敬业的

³⁸⁹ have a short attention span: 注意力持续时间很短

³⁹⁰ feel comfortable coming to them: 放心地去找他们

Topic 26 印象深刻的一节课

1. Which can help you remember things better, words or photos?

Well, it depends on the person. Some people are visual learners³⁹¹, so photos can help them remember a concept. But others retain information better when³⁹² they can read about it. I think that it also depends on what you're trying to memorize. If you're trying to remember what someone looks like, obviously a photo would be better. But if you're trying to remember a classic poem, you'd have to depend on reading it a lot of times³⁹³.

2. Why do some people have better memory? / What may affect people's memory?

I suppose that in some cases, it can be due to genetics³⁹⁴. Some people are already predisposed to³⁹⁵ have a better memory. But a good memory also depends on other factors that are within your control. For example, you can remember things better when you have a healthy diet and you exercise regularly. Those things improve your brain function³⁹⁶ and improve your memory. Besides, some people who actively challenge themselves with new activities, like learning a language or an instrument, tend to have a better memory because it keeps their brain active.

3. Why can some people remember some little things in life?

I think some people pay attention to the little things because they matter to them³⁹⁷. It might seem weird to remember details that most people don't pay attention to, but they can be important depending on the person. As far as I know, many trained detectives and police officers are very good at observing and recalling the details of crime scenes that normal people wouldn't notice and remember. Other people are able to remember the little things because they have a very sharp memory³⁹⁸. Sometimes that's genetic, but sometimes it's because that person has made special efforts to improve their memory.

见下页

³⁹¹ visual learners: 视觉型学习者

³⁹² retain information better when: 当...的时候, 能更好的记住信息

³⁹³ depend on reading it a lot of times: 靠把它读很多遍

³⁹⁴ in some cases, it can be due to genetics: 在某些情况

下, 这可能是由于基因的原因

³⁹⁵ are already predisposed to: 天生就已经有...

³⁹⁶ improve your brain function: 改善你的大脑功能

³⁹⁷ they matter to them: 它们对他们来说很重要

³⁹⁸ have a very sharp memory: 有非常敏锐的记忆力

4. Are young people better at memorizing things than old people? Do young people have a better memory than old people?

No, I don't think so. I actually read in an article that the brain is the only organ in our body that can stay young as we age³⁹⁹. And you can see tons of scientists who are in their seventies, eighties and even nineties but are still active at work. Even compared to young people nowadays, they could still have a sharp memory. So I don't believe that the aging of the brain affects one's memories. If someone has a healthy brain when they are old, they will be as good at memorizing things as young people.

5. Do men and women have differences in memory?

Yes, there are actually some differences in memory when it comes to men and women. I remember I read an article somewhere says that⁴⁰⁰ on average, males and females have greater volume in different areas of the brain, and some of the parts affect one's memory. In general, women are better at remembering things like names, faces, and conversations. They also have better short-term memory⁴⁰¹ than men. Plus, they're good at finding things they've lost. On the other hand, men are typically better at things like navigation. So they can remember directions to a place even if they've only been there once or twice.

6. Do people like things with sentimental value?

Yes, I believe people like hanging onto things that are associated with certain memories⁴⁰². For example, it's very common to keep items from your childhood so you can remember it when you're older. Some people save their favorite toys, while others keep sports medals and other memorabilia⁴⁰³. As people grow older, they save things from important occasions like graduations and weddings. Even though the object itself might lose value over time⁴⁰⁴, the memories that it holds are priceless⁴⁰⁵.

见下页

³⁹⁹ stay young as we age: 随着年龄的增长保持年轻

⁴⁰⁰ I read an article somewhere says that: 我在哪儿读到过一篇文章说...

⁴⁰¹ have better short-term memory: 有更好的短期记忆

⁴⁰² hanging onto things that are associated with certain

memories: 留住与某些特定记忆有联系的东西

⁴⁰³ memorabilia: 纪念品

⁴⁰⁴ over time: 随着时间的推移

⁴⁰⁵ the memories that it holds are priceless: 它所承载的记忆是无价的

7. Can technology help people remember things better? How?

Yeah, definitely. One good example is photography. In the past, it was really rare to own a camera because they were really expensive. But nowadays, basically every cell phone has a camera built into it⁴⁰⁶. You can take pictures and videos of a moment instead of only preserving it in your mind⁴⁰⁷. Then, later on, you can look back at those pictures and videos to fully remember the occasion⁴⁰⁸.

8. How to forget a bad memory?

You can forget a negative memory⁴⁰⁹ in a few different ways. First, it might help to talk to someone about it, like a friend or family member. You can even cry on their shoulder⁴¹⁰. Real friends and family members will be there for you when you're in pain. It's a healthy way to relieve your pain and it also can be a really effective strategy to make you less sad or scared. Besides, you can try to think of some good memories instead⁴¹¹. For example, if the painful memory happened at your school, think of a good memory from school instead.

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⁴⁰⁶ has a camera built into it: 有一个内置的摄像头

⁴⁰⁷ preserving it in your mind: 保存在你的脑海里

⁴⁰⁸ fully remember the occasion: 充分记住当时的情景

⁴⁰⁹ a negative memory: 负面的记忆; 消极的记忆

⁴¹⁰ cry on their shoulder: 靠在他们的肩膀上哭泣

⁴¹¹ think of some good memories instead: 反而去想一些美好的回忆

Topic 27 困难的决定

1. What decisions do people usually make in their daily lives?

People make a number of decisions throughout the day. One of the most basic but consistent choices⁴¹² is what to eat every day. Sometimes they might have to choose between cooking a meal or ordering out⁴¹³. People also have to decide how they'll spend their time, at least when they're not in work or school. There are lots of options for things to do during leisure time, so they have lots to choose from.

2. Which is easier, making a decision by yourself or making a decision after group discussion?

I think that it really depends on the decision. In some situations, it's better to make a decision by yourself. You don't want to have too many cooks in the kitchen⁴¹⁴. If everyone's giving their opinion, it might be harder to figure out what you really want. But in other cases, you might actually want other people to weigh in⁴¹⁵, especially if the decision is something you're unsure about or if it's outside your expertise⁴¹⁶.

3. Why are many young people unwilling to follow their parents' advice?

I think that young people are unwilling to follow their parents' advice because they want to express their individualism⁴¹⁷. Young people grow up having to do everything their parents say, so once they become teenagers or young adults they are less likely to follow parental advice⁴¹⁸. They want to prove their independence and show that they can make their own decisions about their life. They may even try to lead a life that is completely different than the life their parents want them to have.

见下页

⁴¹² One of the most basic but consistent choices: 最基本但要持续做的选择之一

⁴¹³ ordering out: 叫外卖

⁴¹⁴ You don't want to have too many cooks in the kitchen: 你不想厨房里有太多厨师; 意指你不想一个地方有太多人发号施令

⁴¹⁵ weigh in: 参与进来

⁴¹⁶ outside your expertise: 在你的专业知识之外

⁴¹⁷ express their individualism: 表达他们的个人主义

⁴¹⁸ less likely to follow parental advice: 不太可能听从父母的建议

4. Why would middle-aged people tend to second-guess their own decisions?

Middle-aged people usually have to make more important decisions than younger people, since most middle-aged people have a lot of family and work responsibilities. This means that any decision they make will affect other people, so they may spend more time doubting themselves and second-guessing their decisions⁴¹⁹ than a young person would. Plus, when you're older, you realize that your instinct isn't always right. Middle-aged people have had lots of experiences where they've made the wrong call⁴²⁰. So they know to think twice before⁴²¹ making a decision.

5. How do people usually make decisions?

People usually make decisions by weighing the pros and cons⁴²². Whether it's picking what to order off a menu or choosing a job, they'll think about what they might gain from the situation, and then judge if it's worth the potential risks. A lot of people also make decisions by consulting people they trust. They might ask their friends or family for advice in order to make the right call⁴²³.

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⁴¹⁹ second-guessing their decisions: 反思他们的决定

⁴²⁰ made the wrong call: 做出错误的决定

⁴²¹ think twice before: 在...前三思而行

⁴²² weighing the pros and cons: 权衡利弊

⁴²³ make the right call: 做出正确的决策

Topic 28 想要的公寓或房子

1. What kinds of apartments are the most popular?

I suppose that condos⁴²⁴ are probably the most popular. Those types of apartment buildings are usually really tall, so they offer great views, and they often have lots of built-in amenities⁴²⁵. For example, most modern condos have a gym or even a pool. They tend to have good security so you don't have to worry as much about getting robbed. They also have nice common areas⁴²⁶. You can usually go on the roof and enjoy a great view of the city.

2. What are the differences between houses that young people and old people like?

I think young people tend to like apartments because they're more modern and they usually offer better views. If they choose to live in a house, they'll probably be drawn towards⁴²⁷ a house in a more modern style. But many old people prefer living in a single home with a big yard where they can plant flowers, vegetables, or whatever else they like to keep in the yard. Plus, they don't have to worry about stairs in tall buildings anymore.

3. What are the differences between apartments and houses?

Well, apartments are designed to house multiple families⁴²⁸. They are in buildings, either high-rise or low-rise. And most people in cities live in apartments. Given the population of our country⁴²⁹, it's probably the best way to manage millions of people in a city. Houses, on the other hand, are the most common in the countryside, because families in rural areas usually have sites where they can build their own house. And they are usually designed to house one or two families at most.

4. Do people usually rent or buy a house? Why?

People usually save up to buy a house. Some people like to rent, especially if they're young and just starting out in life⁴³⁰. But it's more cost-effective⁴³¹ to buy a house. Even though you have to make pretty hefty mortgage payments⁴³², it's worth it to eventually own a property instead of having to pay rent for as long as you live there. However, it's getting more and more common to rent. As the cost of housing goes up⁴³³, most people just don't have enough money to buy.

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⁴²⁴ condos: 独立产权公寓

⁴²⁵ built-in amenities: 内置的设施；公寓楼内的配套设施（比如健身房，娱乐中心，游泳池等等）

⁴²⁶ common areas: 公用区域

⁴²⁷ be drawn towards: 被吸引

⁴²⁸ house multiple families: 给很多家庭提供住房

⁴²⁹ Given the population of our country: 考虑到我们国家

的人口

⁴³⁰ starting out in life: 开始(一段)新的生活

⁴³¹ cost-effective: 性价比高；划算的

⁴³² make pretty hefty mortgage payments: 支付巨额的房贷

⁴³³ As the cost of housing goes up: 随着房价的上涨

Topic 29 搬到新家/学校

1. Why do people move to a new home?

People move to a new home for many different reasons. The most common reason is that they need more space because they have a new addition to the family⁴³⁴, whether it be a pet or a child. It can be hard to have multiple kids and pets in a small house. People may also move to a new home if they have to move to a new city for work. Some people who live in a city might choose to move to the country because they want more outdoor space⁴³⁵.

2. What problems will people face after moving to a new place?

People can face many problems after moving to a new place; they might need to do repairs⁴³⁶, or they might realize that there is a problem with the new neighbours. It is important for people to do a lot of research and complete a house inspection⁴³⁷ before moving to avoid as many problems as possible. People might also realize that things might be more expensive in a new city, especially rent and utilities⁴³⁸. People might have to readjust their budget or spend their money differently.

3. How do people solve these problems?

If people are struggling to adjust to the new neighborhood, it's helpful to befriend the people⁴³⁹ who live close by. In general, it's always beneficial to be on good terms with your neighbors⁴⁴⁰. If you're new to the area, your neighbors are often the people who can give you good advice when it comes to finding the best restaurants and essential places like hospitals and grocery stores. Dealing with new expenses can be handled by rearranging your budget or saving up beforehand⁴⁴¹.

见下页

⁴³⁴ have a new addition to the family: 有了新的家庭成员

⁴³⁵ outdoor space: 户外空间

⁴³⁶ do repairs: 修理

⁴³⁷ complete a house inspection: 完成房屋检查

⁴³⁸ utilities: 水电气费等公共设施或服务的费用

⁴³⁹ befriend the people: 和...人交朋友

⁴⁴⁰ be on good terms with your neighbors: 与你的邻居和睦相处

⁴⁴¹ saving up beforehand: 攒钱之前

4. Is it good to move to a new place frequently? Why?

I don't think that it is a good idea to move to a new place often because it is very stressful, time consuming⁴⁴², and expensive. Moving requires a lot of research and preparation, so it can be very time consuming especially if you are also working full time. Moving is also very expensive; if you are renting, you need to pay at least two months of rent up front⁴⁴³, and if you are buying you need to provide a down payment⁴⁴⁴. It is better to move less often.

5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of living in the same place?

If you stay in the same place, you can build long-lasting relationships with the people around you. It's hard to maintain connections with people when you move from place to place. So that's a nice thing to have. But a downside is that you might get bored or even sick of your surroundings. Sometimes people can feel stuck in a rut⁴⁴⁵ if they never live anywhere else. Depending on where you live, it might also get too expensive to cover living costs.

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⁴⁴² time consuming: 耗时间的

⁴⁴³ up front: 预先; 提前

⁴⁴⁴ provide a down payment: 准备首付

⁴⁴⁵ stuck in a rut: 做的事情一成不变, 生活呆板无聊

Topic 30 常做的浪费时间的活动

1. What are the activities that people must do in their daily lives?

Well, there are the basic activities, like eating and working. Every day, you have to decide what kind of food you'll put in your body, and you have to figure out how you're going to support yourself through either a job or education⁴⁴⁶. But another activity that people should do every day is exercise. It's important to stay fit through working out, whether it's for twenty minutes or an hour.

2. What waste people's time in daily life?

A lot of different things can waste people's time in daily life. Mainly, having to wait on other people is a waste of time. That includes being stuck behind a slow walker⁴⁴⁷ or a slow driver, waiting in line, or waiting for a co-worker to send you a document that you need. All of these things can waste your time and can be extremely frustrating. Another thing that wastes time is scrolling on a cellphone⁴⁴⁸. People often spend an excessive amount of time on apps like TikTok, Wechat and Weibo. They could be more productive in life if they put down their cellphones.

3. How do people balance life and work?

Finding a work-life balance is really difficult, but I think that it comes more naturally over time. People have to figure out what their priorities are⁴⁴⁹. If work is causing them to neglect their family, they should reassess⁴⁵⁰ and figure out how they can handle their responsibilities differently so they can avoid damaging their relationships. Once you know what's really important to you, you can base your work-life balance around that.

4. What (time-wasting) things do people feel stressed out about?

People usually feel stressed out about their commutes. If they have to wait in traffic, they'll get frustrated, especially if they're already running late⁴⁵¹. Waiting in a long line of cars is a huge waste of time. I don't know anyone who can sit in the middle of rush hour and not feel a little stressed. Actually, I think people hate waiting in line in general, whether it's on the highway or at a store.

见下页

⁴⁴⁶ figure out how you're going to support yourself through either a job or education: 想清楚你要如何通过工作或教育来养活自己

⁴⁴⁷ being stuck behind a slow walker: 被堵在一个走的很慢的人后面

⁴⁴⁸ scrolling on a cellphone: 刷手机; 玩手机

⁴⁴⁹ figure out what their priorities are: 人们必须弄清楚他们的优先要做什么

⁴⁵⁰ reassess: 重新考虑

⁴⁵¹ running late: 迟到

5. Why do some people not follow their own plans?

It seems to me that some people abandon their own plans because they don't have enough motivation or dedication. Although they might set clear goals for themselves, they might not follow through because things get hard and they don't have the drive to keep going and push through⁴⁵². But in other situations, people don't follow their own plans because they realize it's not the right plan, or that there's a better choice for them.

6. Will you continue doing something when you are aware that it's a waste of time?

Yes, there are definitely some occasions where I do something even though I know it's a waste of time. For example, whenever I'm procrastinating⁴⁵³, I'll just scroll through social media on my phone⁴⁵⁴. I know that it's totally unproductive, but it helps me relax. Plus, social media is designed to be super addictive, so it feels fun. So even though it's a waste of time, I like being on my phone and just doing something mindless⁴⁵⁵.

7. Why do some people refuse to abide by rules?

I think some people just believe they're the exception to the rule. They think the rules don't apply to them because they're smarter or special in some way. For example, you often see news about people who flout⁴⁵⁶ and disobey the COVID-19 rules of wearing a mask in public areas. Or, in some cases, they might not understand the reason behind the rule, so they decide that they don't need to follow it. I think that it's very selfish, but some people think they're above the rules⁴⁵⁷. It's hard to reason with people like that.

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⁴⁵² don't have the drive to keep going and push through: 没有继续前进的动力

⁴⁵³ procrastinating: 爱拖延的

⁴⁵⁴ scroll through social media on my phone: 刷手机上的社交媒体玩

⁴⁵⁵ doing something mindless: 做一些机械简单不需要思考的事情

⁴⁵⁶ flout: 藐视

⁴⁵⁷ they're above the rules: 他们凌驾于规则之上

Topic 31 有创造力的人

1. Do you think you are a creative person?

Yes, I would say that overall I'm a creative person. I'm always coming up with new ideas and new ways to do things, because I think that is a good way to keep work interesting. I also really like making art. It's not my profession by any means⁴⁵⁸, but it's a really fun hobby and it helps me bring out my creative side more⁴⁵⁹. Plus, I try to be creative with interior design, by adding new decor and furniture to my apartment to make it reflect my personality and creativity⁴⁶⁰.

2. Is it good for children to learn arts? / Do drawing and music lessons in school help children develop creativity?

Yes, it's great for children to study the arts. Children can definitely develop their creativity through activities like drawing and music lessons. Both of these activities teach children to express themselves in creative ways. With drawing, they can use their imagination to create pieces of art. When they take music lessons, they can use different parts of their brain to understand music and express themselves by playing a song. Through these activities, children can learn to see and interact with the world in new ways⁴⁶¹.

3. Is children's doodling meaningful?

Well, it depends on the child - some children doodle things that are meaningful to them, while other children just doodle to pass the time. Either way⁴⁶², I think doodling is a great way for children to practice their artistic skills and fine motor skills⁴⁶³. They can also practice their handwriting. Doodling is also a good option for hyperactive children⁴⁶⁴ who need to be doing something and can't focus on just one thing at a time.

4. Do you think music education at school is suitable for all children?

Yes, I suppose that all children could benefit from at least a little music education. They don't have to take music classes all throughout school⁴⁶⁵, but they should at least have one class. I think that learning about music or learning to play an instrument is really beneficial for children's development. It gets them to use their brain in a different way. Studying music has also been shown to improve children's math skills.

见下页

⁴⁵⁸ It's not my profession by any means: 这绝不是我的职业; 无论如何, 这都不是我的职业

⁴⁵⁹ helps me bring out my creative side more: (它)帮助我更多地发挥我的创造力

⁴⁶⁰ make it reflect my personality and creativity: 使它反映出我的个性和创造力

⁴⁶¹ see and interact with the world in new ways: 以新的

方式看待世界, 并与之互动

⁴⁶² Either way: 无论哪种方式

⁴⁶³ fine motor skills: 精细运动技能; 小肌肉运动技能

⁴⁶⁴ hyperactive children: 好动的孩子

⁴⁶⁵ They don't have to take music classes all throughout school: 他们不必在整个上学期间都上音乐课

5. What kinds of jobs require people to be creative?

Many jobs require you to be creative, and I would even argue that you can be creative no matter what your job is. Some jobs are very obviously creative, like being an artist or a writer. In those professions, your entire livelihood⁴⁶⁶ depends on how creative and original you can be. Some other examples are people who work in graphic design or marketing. They have to figure out creative ways to advertise a product. But if you work in a job where you have to do a lot of problem-solving⁴⁶⁷, like as a manager or a business-owner, you also need a lot of creativity to succeed.

6. Do you think leaders need to have creative ability?

Yes, I would say that leaders need to be creative. This is because leaders need to take into account⁴⁶⁸ every single member of their team, and come up with ideas and solutions that work for them. This often requires the leader to think outside the box⁴⁶⁹ in order to come up with ideas that work for everyone. The more creative a leader can be, the more engaged⁴⁷⁰ and happy their team will be.

7. What age should children start music lessons at school?

I think children should start music lessons when they're six or seven. If they're any younger⁴⁷¹, they might not be able to grasp the basic skills you need to play an instrument. But when they're around that age, they can understand simple instructions and begin to read music notes⁴⁷² on a page. Plus, if they keep at it, they'll be able to become a strong player⁴⁷³ in a few years. That can help build their confidence⁴⁷⁴.

8. Should teachers be creative?

Yes, I definitely think that teachers should be creative. They don't have to be artistic, necessarily, but they should be good at problem-solving, which requires creativity. Teachers have to deal with a variety of unpredictable situations when they're in the classroom. They also have to accommodate students who have different learning styles. So teachers need to be flexible and creative when it comes to how they deliver a lesson⁴⁷⁵ and help their students.

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⁴⁶⁶ livelihood: 生计

⁴⁶⁷ do a lot of problem-solving: 要解决很多问题

⁴⁶⁸ take into account: 考虑; 重视

⁴⁶⁹ think outside the box: 跳出固有思维模式

⁴⁷⁰ engaged: 投入

⁴⁷¹ If they're any younger: 如果他们再年轻一点的话

⁴⁷² read music notes: 读乐谱

⁴⁷³ become a strong player: 成为一个很强的乐手

⁴⁷⁴ build their confidence: 建立他们的自信

⁴⁷⁵ deliver a lesson: 授课

Topic 32 有趣的外国人

1. How do people know foreign friends?

People usually get to know foreign friends through travel. A lot of people like to travel abroad, so they might meet new friends along the way⁴⁷⁶. Sometimes it's easier to start a friendship while on a journey than in everyday life, despite the difference of citizenship⁴⁷⁷. After all, being in a foreign land means you are exotic, which adds your charisma somewhat⁴⁷⁸. Besides, some people may meet new friends from other countries online. When you play an online game that is open to the world, it's quite easy to team up with⁴⁷⁹ gamers from other countries and have opportunities to know them.

2. What are the advantages of knowing foreigners?

Well, there are a lot of advantages to knowing foreigners. Firstly, knowing someone from another country will open up your perspective⁴⁸⁰ since you will get to learn about a culture that is different than your own. Secondly, you might be introduced to new food, music, languages, or traditions that you would not have known otherwise. Finally, knowing someone from another country gives you a good excuse to⁴⁸¹ travel and visit that country someday.

3. What are the pros and cons of living abroad?

One big pro is that you get to experience a new culture. You might even be able to learn a new language. I think that's a great way to expand your horizons⁴⁸² and learn more about the world, or even yourself in the process. You can also try new food and meet new people, which is always exciting. A con is that⁴⁸³ you might find it hard to learn a new language and fit into a new environment. It can also be very expensive to live abroad.

4. Do you have any foreign friends and do you think having foreign friends is a good way to know other countries?

Yes, I do have a few friends from other countries who I met on the internet. Specifically, we got to know each other through an online game called PUBG, a trendy online shooting game⁴⁸⁴. Anyway, I know them pretty well after playing dozens of games together. And I've learned a lot about their countries through our chats. One of them is from the Philippines; she's the one who I'm the closest with and talk the most to. If it wasn't for her, I wouldn't know so many fun facts about the Philippines.

见下页

⁴⁷⁶ meet new friends along the way: 一路上结识新朋友

⁴⁷⁷ citizenship: 国籍

⁴⁷⁸ adds your charisma somewhat: 增加了你的魅力

⁴⁷⁹ team up with: 和...组队

⁴⁸⁰ open up your perspective: 打开你的视角; 开阔你的视野

⁴⁸¹ gives you a good excuse to: 给了你一个很好的借口

⁴⁸² expand your horizons: 开阔视野

⁴⁸³ A con is that: 一个缺点是

⁴⁸⁴ PUBG, a trendy online shooting game: PUBG, 一款流行的在线射击游戏

5. Do you think it's important to know the culture and language before going to another country?

I think that it's important to know a little bit about the country's culture, and to know a few important phrases in their language before you visit. This is because some countries have very different attitudes and customs compared to others, and you don't want to offend someone because you don't know the proper attire or customs⁴⁸⁵. Knowing some key phrases in the language is also very helpful, and the locals will appreciate your effort to speak their language.

6. What do you think of people who work in international companies?

Well, it's really cool for people to work in international companies. I respect them for it because they probably have to take on a ton of challenges. For example, if they have a higher-up position⁴⁸⁶ in the company, they might have to go on business trips to different parts of the world. They might also have to learn about other cultures when dealing with people from different countries. So I think that it takes a lot of tact and determination to⁴⁸⁷ succeed at an international company.

7. What abilities do people need to have when working in an international company?

People working in an international company need to have good language learning skills. Since international companies normally have branches and stakeholders⁴⁸⁸ in more than one country, their employees need to be able to communicate with other co-workers, suppliers and clients from different countries in an effective manner. So employees who are bilingual or trilingual are definitely assets to an international company. Besides, people skills⁴⁸⁹ are also essential since communication makes up a big part of their job.

8. How can we promote international cultural exchanges?

I think that a great way to promote international cultural exchanges is through study abroad programs. When students go to another country to learn, they encounter a totally new culture and way of life. It helps familiarize them with another country and gives them lots of knowledge that they can bring back to their own country. When they have formative experiences abroad⁴⁹⁰, they can also have more empathy and understanding for people from different places.

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⁴⁸⁵ the proper attire or customs: 适合的服装或习俗

⁴⁸⁶ have a higher-up position: 有更高的职位

⁴⁸⁷ it takes a lot of tact and determination to: 这需要很多技巧和决心

⁴⁸⁸ stakeholders: 利益相关者; 和公司有关的人

⁴⁸⁹ people skills: 人际交往能力

⁴⁹⁰ have formative experiences abroad: 有留学经历

Topic 33 喜欢的名人

1. What kinds of people are famous in your country?

There are a lot of famous singers and actors. People love keeping up with⁴⁹¹ those kinds of celebrities because they feel like they know them. When you listen to a song or watch a movie, you feel like you get a sense of the performer's personality⁴⁹². So it's really easy to become invested in their lives⁴⁹³. Singers and actors are famous because people get obsessed with them and want to know everything about them.

2. Why do people care about the private lives of celebrities?

I think it's because a lot of people have the desire to peek into other people's lives⁴⁹⁴. It's not cool to pry into the private life⁴⁹⁵ of people around you, but some people think it's open season⁴⁹⁶ when it comes to celebrities. After all, there's a whole industry based around celebrities that just fuels gossip. I don't think it's healthy, but people definitely care. Besides, everyone is starstruck⁴⁹⁷ to some extent. So it's really easy to become invested in the personal lives of the celebrities they're fond of.

3. Are international celebrities important to a country?

I suppose that to a degree⁴⁹⁸, international celebrities are important to a country. They definitely shouldn't be valued more than government officials or people who do official work for a country, but they bring attention to their country⁴⁹⁹ and they can be representatives for their culture⁵⁰⁰. Some people might not know a lot about a country, but when they see a celebrity from that country that they like, they might be inclined to⁵⁰¹ learn more about it.

见下页

⁴⁹¹ keeping up with: 追...的动态

⁴⁹² get a sense of the performer's personality: 感受了解到表演者的个性

⁴⁹³ become invested in their lives: 对他们的生活投入更多注意力

⁴⁹⁴ have the desire to peek into other people's lives: 有窥探他人生活的欲望

⁴⁹⁵ It's not cool to pry into the private life: 窥探别人的私生活是很不好

⁴⁹⁶ open season: 开放的领域

⁴⁹⁷ starstruck: 被明星迷住; 崇拜明星

⁴⁹⁸ to a degree: 在某种程度上

⁴⁹⁹ bring attention to their country: 让人们注意到他们的国家

⁵⁰⁰ be representatives for their culture: 成为他们文化的代表

⁵⁰¹ be inclined to: 倾向于...

4. Would people in the past become famous for doing good deeds? How about now?

I don't think that people got famous for doing good things in the past. For one, there just wasn't as much media attention. People could do good deeds every day but it wouldn't go viral like it does now⁵⁰². Nowadays, if someone catches something wholesome on camera⁵⁰³, they can share it on social media and it might get millions of views. People can become famous for simply helping someone out when their good deed is posted online.

5. What kind of person becomes a star? Can you be a star by making videos?

I think that nowadays, social media is so accessible that basically anyone can be famous. All it takes is a bit of luck to post it at the right time⁵⁰⁴. Lots of average people get their fifteen minutes of fame⁵⁰⁵ by posting a video that happens to go viral. Sometimes they manage to stay famous if they keep making similar videos, like people who do crazy stunts⁵⁰⁶ and post them online. But it's hard to hold onto fame that way.

6. Why do people want to be famous? Do you want to be a celebrity?

It seems to me that people want to be famous because they really love attention, to be honest. When you're a celebrity, everyone is obsessed with you. But I don't think that people realize how stressful it is to be constantly observed and talked about⁵⁰⁷. That's why I would never want to be a celebrity. I want to have my privacy and not worry about people taking pictures of me whenever I go out in public. I would hate for everyone to be tracking my every move⁵⁰⁸.

见下页

⁵⁰² it wouldn't go viral like it does now: 不会像现在这样一下就火起来

⁵⁰³ catches something wholesome on camera: 用相机拍到了一些积极向上的东西

⁵⁰⁴ All it takes is a bit of luck to post it at the right time: 你所需要的只是一点运气，去在正确的时间发布视频

⁵⁰⁵ fifteen minutes of fame: 转瞬即逝的名气；指每个人都有机会出名，但名气往往是昙花一现

⁵⁰⁶ do crazy stunts: 疯狂的特技

⁵⁰⁷ be constantly observed and talked about: 不断的被人观察和谈论

⁵⁰⁸ tracking my every move: 盯着我的一举一动

7. What are the pros and cons of being a celebrity?

One big pro is that you get access to really cool things. You get the VIP treatment wherever you go, and you can go to exclusive events⁵⁰⁹ in designer clothes. You obviously get a lot of money as well, so you can afford whatever your heart desires. But a big downside is that you basically have no privacy. You get photographed wherever you go and people speculate about your private life⁵¹⁰ all the time.

8. What are the disadvantages of being a child star?

Well, being a child star can be really bad for your psyche⁵¹¹. When you make the most money in your family, you take on a lot of pressure to keep your family supported. You might also have greedy relatives who try to take advantage of you. Plus, if a kid always gets what they want, they'll probably grow up to be vain and spoiled⁵¹². If they ever stop being famous, they might not be able to adjust to the routine of a normal life⁵¹³.

注: 以下列出的 5 个小题, 是该主题在前两季出现过的其他高频考题:

旧题 1. What are the differences between famous people today and those in the past?

I think famous people today may have more rights than they used to in the past. I've watched a few documentaries about⁵¹⁴ actors and actresses in the past and how poorly the industry treated them⁵¹⁵. Some actors had no rights over⁵¹⁶ their own bodies; if they gained weight they would be fired. Some actresses weren't allowed to have children until their contract was finished. I'm sure it is still tough to be an actor but I feel like actors have more rights and are treated better than they were in the past.

旧题 2. Do you think famous people are necessarily good in their fields?

I think it depends on the person. Some people are extremely talented and deserve the fame they have acquired but others simply got lucky when they became famous. There are actors everyone knows, like Tom Cruise, who is not necessarily a good actor⁵¹⁷ but is able to play a consistent character in his movie franchises⁵¹⁸. He gets tons of movie roles because he is well-known but a lot of audiences don't think his acting is good. Some actors are definitely better than others.

见下页

⁵⁰⁹ exclusive events: 独家活动

⁵¹⁰ speculate about your private life: 揣测你的私生活

⁵¹¹ bad for your psyche: 对你的心灵有害

⁵¹² be vain and spoiled: 虚荣而骄纵

⁵¹³ adjust to the routine of a normal life: 适应正常的日常生活

⁵¹⁴ I've watched a few documentaries about: 我以前看过关于...的纪录片 (Part3 回答中可以引入这类话

术)

⁵¹⁵ how poorly the industry treated them: (娱乐) 行业对他们的待遇很差

⁵¹⁶ had no rights over...: 对...没有权利

⁵¹⁷ not necessarily a good actor: 未必是好演员

⁵¹⁸ play a consistent character in his movie franchises: 在他的系列电影中扮演始终如一的角色

旧题 3. Do you think media are putting too much attention on famous people?

Yes, I personally do think the media puts too much attention on famous people. At the end of the day⁵¹⁹ these people are humans just like everyone else and don't need their whole lives broadcasted for the entire world to see. And the new media, especially social media, is often swamped with gossip and even scandals⁵²⁰ involving celebrities, which is a bad trend. I'd rather the media focus more on real issues in our society.

旧题 4. Do you think talent is important for fame?

Yes, talent is definitely essential for people to become famous and successful. Some people manage to get famous online without any talent, but their fame rarely lasts long. For someone to have long-lasting fame⁵²¹, they need to be talented in their field. As far as I know, the singers and actors who can keep being household names are all productive by creating more good artworks. And you need incomparable talent⁵²² for that. Talent will ensure that they continue to get offered work, whether it be roles in movies, record deals⁵²³, or athletic contracts.

旧题 5. What do you think about celebrities making so much money?

I think it is ridiculous that celebrities make the big bucks⁵²⁴ when so many people in the world are suffering from poverty and hunger. Some celebrities do donate to humanitarian causes⁵²⁵, which is good of them, but I see no reason why⁵²⁶ they should be paid such a large amount in the first place. I don't think they contribute to society a lot more than people like scientists and doctors. And even though they have business value that's equivalent to the amount of money they make, we shouldn't glorify⁵²⁷ it. Otherwise, what does that say about those of us working full-time jobs for five-figure salaries⁵²⁸?

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⁵¹⁹ At the end of the day: 说到底, 到头来

⁵²⁰ swamped with gossip and even scandals: 充斥着流言蜚语甚至丑闻

⁵²¹ long-lasting fame: 持久的名声

⁵²² incomparable talent: 无与伦比的天赋

⁵²³ record deals: 唱片合约

⁵²⁴ make the big bucks: 赚很多钱; 发大财

⁵²⁵ donate to humanitarian causes: 捐赠给人道主义事业

⁵²⁶ I see no reason why: 我看不出有什么理由

⁵²⁷ glorify: 美化; 赞美

⁵²⁸ five-figure salaries: 五位数的薪水; 此处就是指一般工薪

Topic 34 社交媒体上常刷的人

1. What can people do on social media?

People use social media for lots of different things. A lot of people use it to post updates from their life⁵²⁹. They'll show pictures of their pets, their relationships, and all sorts of personal things. Others just use it to follow their favourite celebrities and keep track of what they're doing⁵³⁰. You can also use social media to promote a small business or connect with like-minded people⁵³¹ by commenting on posts.

2. Do you think older people and younger people will use the same kind of social media software?

No, I think that older people use different social media sites than young people. Young people tend to prefer using social media apps like Weibo or TikTok. They have shorter attention spans⁵³², so they like software that lets them scroll through lots of posts very quickly⁵³³. But older people like social media that lets them talk with others or get into long conversations. So they prefer more communication-based apps like WeChat and QQ.

3. Do older people spend much time on social media?

No, I don't think older people spend a lot of time on social media. For one⁵³⁴, social media moves very quickly. There's always a new post or blog to look at. You can spend hours just scrolling through posts from thousands and thousands of people. It's suited for young people, who like going from post to post⁵³⁵. But older people prefer having face-to-face talks and longer conversations with others. So they don't use social media as much.

4. Are non-social media like television and newspapers still useful?

Yes, I definitely think that television and newspapers are still useful. Even though a lot of people pay more attention to social media when it comes to reading about the latest trends and topics, TV and newspapers are valuable because in general, they go through a lot more fact-checking⁵³⁶. Social media is popular but it's not always reliable when it comes to reporting the truth. It's important to look at sources that have lots of research behind them⁵³⁷. For example, there were tons of rumors on the internet that have proved to be false during the pandemic⁵³⁸. But you can count on⁵³⁹ the reports on TV and in newspapers.

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⁵²⁹ post updates from their life: 发一些生活中的新鲜事

⁵³⁰ keep track of what they're doing: 了解他们在做什么；跟踪他们的动态

⁵³¹ like-minded people: 志趣相投的人；想法一样的人

⁵³² have shorter attention spans: 有很短的注意力持续时间；注意力持续时间很短

⁵³³ scroll through lots of posts very quickly: 快速刷很多帖子

⁵³⁴ For one: 一则；一方面来说

⁵³⁵ going from post to post: 喜欢不停的看帖子

⁵³⁶ go through a lot more fact-checking: 它们会经过更多的事实核查；会做很多事实背景调查

⁵³⁷ look at sources that have lots of research behind them: 看看那些在背后做了很多调查研究的信息来源

⁵³⁸ pandemic: 疫情

⁵³⁹ count on: 靠得住；依靠

Topic 35 有趣的歌曲

1. Why are many music competitions popular in China?

Well, I think it's because even though singing is a fairly common talent, it's fun to root for people who really shine at it⁵⁴⁰. Competitions are always entertaining because people easily pick favourites and get invested in the action. Music is something that mostly everyone can enjoy, so it's easy to get hooked on⁵⁴¹ music competitions. Combining those two enjoyable elements definitely makes for fun television. Plus, sometimes the next household name⁵⁴² can come out of those competitions.

2. What kinds of music do young people like?

In general, young people like fun, upbeat music with a really good beat. They want something they can sing along or dance to. For young people who enjoy going to clubs, they need exciting music that's fast-paced. Besides, tons of young people like pop and rock music. Some of them enjoy hip-hop and rap as well. A lot of young, contemporary artists work in those genres. So it makes sense that young people would enjoy those kinds of music.

3. What kinds of people like traditional music?

I would say that in general, older people tend to like traditional music. It's not that young people never listen to it, but I think it's just more common for the older generations to be bigger fans. Young people might not always have the proper historical context⁵⁴³ to fully appreciate traditional music. Besides, most of the classic songs are elegant and slow-tempo⁵⁴⁴, so they're more suitable for the elderly to listen to, but aren't popular with young people. Most young people prefer upbeat music.

4. What are the differences between live concerts and online concerts?

I suppose that the energy levels are pretty different. When it's online, you can't interact with any of the other audience members. A huge draw of live concerts⁵⁴⁵ is that you can sing along with the band, in person, and enjoy the energy from a huge crowd. So the sound and visuals are pretty different too. On the other hand, a nice advantage of online concerts is that you save a lot of money on tickets and travel. But if you want to go see live music, it always costs you an arm and a leg⁵⁴⁶. Sometimes you either can't guarantee that you'll get a ticket, or you have to overpay for resale tickets⁵⁴⁷ because they are often sold out quickly.

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⁵⁴⁰ root for people who really shine at it: 为真正擅长它 (唱歌) 的人加油

⁵⁴¹ get hooked on: 对...上瘾

⁵⁴² household name: 家喻户晓的人

⁵⁴³ have the proper historical context: 有合适的历史背景; 这句话意思是年轻人因为不是在以前那个时代

成长起来的, 所以不喜欢传统音乐

⁵⁴⁴ slow-tempo: 慢节奏的

⁵⁴⁵ A huge draw of live concerts: 现场音乐会的一大吸引力

⁵⁴⁶ costs you an arm and a leg: 花你一大笔钱

⁵⁴⁷ overpay for resale tickets: 花更多的钱买黄牛票

Topic 36 帮助学习语言的工具

1. What difficulties do people face when learning a language?

I think one of the biggest challenges people face when learning a new language is memorizing vocabulary. You have to know so many different words, and for some languages like Japanese, you have to memorize characters. It's also really hard to get used to a different kind of grammar. Some languages organize sentences in a completely different way. So that's difficult to adjust to. You basically have to rewire your brain⁵⁴⁸.

2. Do you think language learning is important? Why?

Yes, it's important to learn other languages. For one, it helps you connect with people from different countries. You can gain a lot of perspective by⁵⁴⁹ talking with people in their own language. Learning foreign languages helps you learn about cultures and expand your worldview⁵⁵⁰. Another benefit to learning a language is that it helps keep your mind sharp⁵⁵¹. Studies have shown that⁵⁵² doing activities like learning a language can help improve your memory. In addition, being bilingual or trilingual definitely gives you an edge⁵⁵³ when it comes to job hunting, especially when you're looking for jobs at multinational companies.

3. Which is better, to study alone or to study in a group? Why?

I suppose that the best way to study is to do both. Studying alone is better for memorization and review, whereas⁵⁵⁴ studying in a group is better for understanding new, complex topics. When learning a language, I think it is absolutely essential to have a study group, because then you have an opportunity to practice speaking the language with other people. You can also quiz each other⁵⁵⁵ if you're in a group, and encourage each other. You will build confidence working in a group faster than you would alone.

4. What's the best way to learn a language?

The best way to learn a language is by immersing yourself in that language⁵⁵⁶. I think that everyone learns better by living somewhere where the language is spoken, so that they can hear it every day and practice speaking it every day as well. However, sometimes full immersion is not possible, in which case⁵⁵⁷ it might be better to learn by surrounding yourself with media in the target language; you can listen to the radio in the target language, or watch TV and movies in that language.

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⁵⁴⁸ rewire your brain: 重塑我们的大脑；这是一种比喻方式，是指改变思维方式去适应某一件事

⁵⁴⁹ gain a lot of perspective by: 获得很多视角；了解很多不同的看问题的视角

⁵⁵⁰ expand your worldview: 扩展你的世界观；扩大眼界

⁵⁵¹ keep your mind sharp: 使你思维清晰敏锐

⁵⁵² Studies have shown that: 当你在考场上，说到某

些事情觉得自己也无法解释清楚的时候，说“研究表明”或许是个很好的角度~

⁵⁵³ gives you an edge: 给你带来一个优势

⁵⁵⁴ whereas: 然而

⁵⁵⁵ quiz each other: 互相考对方

⁵⁵⁶ immersing yourself in that language: 让自己沉浸在这门语言中；把自己放在说这个语言的环境中

⁵⁵⁷ in which case: 在这种情况下

Topic 37 难学的技能

1. What skills do students /young people need to learn?

I think that students (young people) need to learn time management and organizational skills. When they're in school, they have to juggle lots of different assignments and other responsibilities⁵⁵⁸. In order to stay on top of their tasks⁵⁵⁹, they need to know how to spend their time wisely so they don't get too overwhelmed. They should also learn communication skills. They need to learn how to communicate well with not only their peers, but their teachers and bosses as well. Being an effective communicator is one of the best qualities you can have, especially when it comes to the workforce⁵⁶⁰.

2. Do you think parents nowadays really care about helping their children learn those skills?

Yes, most parents are invested in helping their children gain those skills. They want their kids to succeed, and they know that it'll take more than luck and goodwill for them to do well in life⁵⁶¹. So I think that parents are trying to teach their kids how to develop these strengths, or at the very least⁵⁶² they're showing them the right resources to get there. It's very important to them that their kids can acquire these important skills.

3. Is it hard for students to learn skills?

I don't think it's too hard for students to learn skills. Some people might struggle with skills they aren't naturally inclined towards⁵⁶³. For example, if someone is shy and reserved, they might find it hard to build up their communication skills⁵⁶⁴. But I suppose that as a student, you have access to lots of resources and educators who can help you develop those skills. A student's job is to learn, and they can do that by being open-minded and willing to put in the hard work⁵⁶⁵.

见下页

⁵⁵⁸ juggle lots of different assignments and other responsibilities: 应付许多不同的作业任务和其他的责任

⁵⁵⁹ stay on top of their tasks: 管理好他们的任务; 确保他们的任务井然有序

⁵⁶⁰ especially when it comes to the workforce: 尤其是涉及到团体工作的时候

⁵⁶¹ it'll take more than luck and goodwill for them to do well in life: 要想在生活中过得好, 光靠运气和别人

的善意(帮助)是不够的

⁵⁶² at the very least: 至少; 起码

⁵⁶³ struggle with skills they aren't naturally inclined towards: 在他们天生不擅长的技能上表现挣扎

⁵⁶⁴ build up their communication skills: 建立他们的沟通技巧

⁵⁶⁵ being open-minded and willing to put in the hard work: 保持心胸开阔并且愿意付出努力

4. Is it hard for old people to learn new skills?

Yes, I suppose that it can be hard for old people to learn new skills. Some of them might feel too set in their ways to pick up additional skills⁵⁶⁶. For example, some old people are wary of computers⁵⁶⁷ and don't want to learn any computer skills. But I think that if they can stay open-minded and willing to learn, they'll be able to pick up new skills and benefit from them.

5. Is a good teacher very important for students' learning experience? Why?

Yes, I would say that having a good teacher is crucial to having a good learning experience. They can make or break a student's experience of a class⁵⁶⁸. Without a good teacher, students will feel confused and possibly overwhelmed by all the things they have to learn. They might walk away⁵⁶⁹ thinking that learning is just a painful and difficult process. A good teacher is there to guide students and make the learning experience a positive one.

6. Which way is faster for people to learn new skills, from books or from life?

I suppose that it is faster to learn a new skill in a real life situation⁵⁷⁰ than from a book. Books can be very useful to review a new skill, but real life is the best way to learn. You can read all about sewing⁵⁷¹, but you will not be able to sew until you actually try. Then, once you have learned a new skill, the best way to become an expert is to practice. Reading can only get you so far⁵⁷².

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⁵⁶⁶ feel too set in their ways to pick up additional skills: 感觉自己的方式太故我或死板，无法学习额外的技能

⁵⁶⁷ are wary of computers: 对电脑很警惕；意指老年人指对使用电脑很谨慎或有所担心

⁵⁶⁸ make or break a student's experience of a class: 可

以成就或破坏一个学生的课堂体验

⁵⁶⁹ walk away: 走开；离去

⁵⁷⁰ in a real life situation: 在现实生活中

⁵⁷¹ sewing: 缝纫

⁵⁷² Reading can only get you so far: 阅读只能让你走这么远

Topic 38 坏掉又修好的东西

1. Are IT-related jobs valued more by society?

Well, yes. It's a fact that people working in the IT industry are getting paid more than ever, which demonstrates the increased value of IT jobs in some way. And the value of jobs in a certain industry is also reflected in their contributions to society. There is no doubt that⁵⁷³ we can't live without technology as long as we don't decide to live an off-grid life⁵⁷⁴. Even all the traditional jobs, like doctors, teachers, and police, are heavily assisted by IT workers and their products. I believe IT jobs will be even more valuable in the future.

2. Is the quality of products worse than before?

Generally speaking, I would say that the quality of products has declined. Now that most products are mass-produced⁵⁷⁵ in factories or sweatshops⁵⁷⁶, you don't see the same attention to detail⁵⁷⁷ as before. Back when more things were made by skilled craftspeople and artists, the quality was a lot higher. But the cost was a lot higher as well. It's a shame⁵⁷⁸, but I think that nowadays, it's more important for something to be cheap rather than high-quality. Otherwise, they are luxury goods for the rich, not for the public. So yes, products are a lot lower-quality than they used to be, but it doesn't mean it's bad for society.

3. What kinds of things do people like to repair by themselves?

I suppose that this really depends on the person, because some people are naturally very handy⁵⁷⁹ and good at repairs, whereas others are not. For people who are handy, they can have a lot of fun repairing things, like home appliances, furniture or even the house itself. For those who think repairing something is complicated or annoying, they might just glue together a broken gadget⁵⁸⁰, such as a toy, an ornament⁵⁸¹ or a photo frame. They would rather have anything bigger and more valuable repaired by professionals.

见下页

⁵⁷³ There is no doubt that: 毫无疑问的是.....

⁵⁷⁴ live an off-grid life: 过一种没水没电的生活; off grid 不只是远离互联网, 是指远离一切网络, 包括水电网络, 交通网络

⁵⁷⁵ mass-produced: 大量生产的, 大批生产的

⁵⁷⁶ sweatshops: 完全靠大量人力生产的工厂

⁵⁷⁷ attention to detail: 注重细节

⁵⁷⁸ It's a shame: 很遗憾

⁵⁷⁹ naturally very handy: 天生手巧; 天生善于修东西

⁵⁸⁰ glue together a broken gadget: 粘一粘坏掉的小东西

⁵⁸¹ ornament: 装饰品; 小饰品

4. Why do people like to get their mobile phones repaired in specialized stores?

I think it's mainly because mobile phones can be very difficult to repair by yourself. Even handling a battery replacement for your iPhone isn't a piece of cake⁵⁸², let alone⁵⁸³ something more complicated. If you try to repair your phone and you make a mistake, that could become an even bigger problem, and you may even need to get a new phone, which would cost you an arm and a leg. If you go to a phone store, they have trained specialists⁵⁸⁴ who know exactly what to do to fix the problem quickly. That is why many people prefer to go to a special store.

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⁵⁸² isn't a piece of cake: 不是一件容易的事

⁵⁸³ let alone: 更不必说

⁵⁸⁴ trained specialists: 训练有素的专业人士

Topic 39 向长者学习技能

1. What can children learn from their parents or grandparents? (也可能针对 parents 和 grandparents 分开提问)

Children can learn a ton from the older generations. Children's parents usually teach them what values they should have. They also teach their kids basic skills, whether it's learning how to cook a meal or how to do chores around the house⁵⁸⁵. Children can also learn a lot from their grandparents, like about their family history or about what life was like in the past. It's cool for kids to learn about what their parents were like when they were their age. Besides, children can learn empathy from their grandparents. They can help their grandparents with chores and help them handle some challenges⁵⁸⁶. The process of giving their grandparents a hand can make children kinder and more compassionate.

2. From whom can children learn more, parents or grandparents?

I think that in general, children can learn more from their parents. Grandparents have a lot of important information that they pass on to children. But parents usually do most of the work of raising them⁵⁸⁷. Since the parents are with their kids day in and day out, they can teach them important life skills, like how to manage their time well and how to communicate with others. More importantly, they can illustrate how to become well-rounded people with good values⁵⁸⁸.

3. What kind of help do you think older people need?

I suppose that older people usually need help adjusting to changes in modern society⁵⁸⁹. For example, as technology advances, older people might need assistance navigating new software⁵⁹⁰. They might struggle to work their phones⁵⁹¹ or figure out how to use social media. So the younger generation can help out with that. As people get old, they also need help with everyday tasks, like running errands or even making food for themselves.

5. What skills can young people learn from older people?

It seems to me that young people can learn lots of practical skills from older people. Young people are usually very skilled with technology, but they're not always good at the offline stuff⁵⁹². For example, a lot of young people don't know how to fix things when they break down. So older people can help out by teaching them some technical skills. It's surprising how many people don't know how to use a screwdriver⁵⁹³ or do other household tasks.

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⁵⁸⁵ do chores around the house: 做些家务

⁵⁸⁶ help them handle some challenges: 帮助他们处理一些有挑战性的事情

⁵⁸⁷ do most of the work of raising them: 承担抚养孩子的大部分工作

⁵⁸⁸ well-rounded people with good values: 全面发展, 有良好价值观的人

⁵⁸⁹ adjusting to changes in modern society: 适应现代社会的变化

⁵⁹⁰ navigating new software: 指引使用新软件; 这句话是指老人需要别人帮助教给他们怎么使用新的软件

⁵⁹¹ struggle to work their phones: 使用手机很困难

⁵⁹² the offline stuff: 线下的东西; 互联网之外的东西

⁵⁹³ screwdriver: 螺丝刀

Topic 40 感兴趣想学的东西

1. Do you think learning new things is important?

Yes, learning new things is really important. If we stop trying to learn, we'll become limited in our knowledge and we might become confined to a narrow point of view⁵⁹⁴. It's good to branch out and expand our horizons every now and then⁵⁹⁵, even if it's something as simple as learning how to play a new sport or learning about a different cuisine. I just learned how to kayak, which is something I never thought I'd enjoy, but it turned out to be a really fun and memorable experience.

2. Who needs to learn new things?

It seems to me that young people usually need to learn new things. In general, old people have accumulated a whole wealth of knowledge and experiences⁵⁹⁶. But young people are still having formative experiences⁵⁹⁷ and discovering the world around them. So it's important for them to seek out knowledge from lots of different sources. They should be curious about the world and want to learn more about their history and what lies in store for the future⁵⁹⁸.

3. Where can old people learn new things?

I think old people can learn new things from public places, like libraries or museums. I know that a lot of people learn when there are new exhibits at museums in particular. You can pick up a lot of interesting facts⁵⁹⁹ about other cultures. Old people can also borrow books from libraries that will teach them about new subjects. Alternatively⁶⁰⁰, they can learn everyday things from friends or family. Some old people learn how to handle new technology⁶⁰¹ by asking their younger relatives.

见下页

⁵⁹⁴ become confined to a narrow point of view: 局限于狭隘的观点

⁵⁹⁵ branch out and expand our horizons every now and then: 时不时地发散和扩展我们的视野

⁵⁹⁶ accumulated a whole wealth of knowledge and experiences: 积累了丰富的知识和经验

⁵⁹⁷ having formative experiences: 获得成长经验

⁵⁹⁸ what lies in store for the future: 未来会发生什么

⁵⁹⁹ pick up a lot of interesting facts: 了解到很多趣事

⁶⁰⁰ Alternatively: 或者，要不然

⁶⁰¹ how to handle new technology: 如何使用新技术; 如何使用新科技产品

4. Should government spend more money to help people learn new things?

Yes, the government should definitely invest more money in helping people learn new things. They can establish more trade schools⁶⁰² that offer free training programs to the public. This is a good way to generate more skilled workers. And generally speaking, if a country's population is more educated, it is more productive overall, which means a stronger economy and more tax revenue for the government. So more investment in public education is definitely a gateway to a better country⁶⁰³.

5. Do you think retired people/80 years old people should learn new things?

Yes, I think that there's always room for people to learn new things⁶⁰⁴, no matter what their age is. When it comes to people who are retired or over 80, they can keep their minds sharp by⁶⁰⁵ picking up new information. They might choose to learn about countries they've never visited, or facts about ancient history. I suppose that'll help them spend their time in a fun and engaging way.

6. Is it difficult for adults to learn new things?

Well, yes, sometimes it can be hard for adults to learn new things. Adults have a lot of responsibilities to deal with. They usually have to juggle a full-time job with parenting or looking after other people⁶⁰⁶, not to mention⁶⁰⁷ the duties of running a household. So the hardest thing can be finding the time to learn new things. But it can also be difficult to focus on learning something new when they're so stressed with other things.

见下页

⁶⁰² trade schools: 职业学校; 技术学校

⁶⁰³ a gateway to a better country: 通向一个更好国家的大门

⁶⁰⁴ there's always room for people to learn new things: 人们总是有学习新事物的空间

⁶⁰⁵ keep their minds sharp by: 保持他们的思维敏捷

⁶⁰⁶ juggle a full-time job with parenting or looking after other people: 在全职工作时兼顾育儿或照顾他人

⁶⁰⁷ not to mention: 更不用说

7. Is it the government's responsibility to assist people to learn?

I think that to some degree⁶⁰⁸, it's the government's responsibility to help people learn. At the very least⁶⁰⁹, they should make education accessible. They should work to make sure that public education is free to everyone, no matter what their social status or class is. The government should make sure that the curriculum is helpful and that teachers have whatever resources they need to create a good learning experience for students. And since it's related to public education, we can only count on the government. I don't think private companies have the motivation to help people learn unless it's profitable.

8. What are the differences between education in the past and now?

I suppose that in the past, education was more exam-oriented⁶¹⁰. Students were expected to get higher marks on exams, which was the sole purpose of studying. I mean, it's true that students can learn something in the process of studying for exams, but what they learn is limited. And the exam skills are basically useless in real life. But nowadays, there are so many different options when it comes to school. Students can study all sorts of subjects, even if they're not part of the college entrance exams⁶¹¹, like programming and spoken English.

9. What are the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning?

One big advantage of distance learning is that it's really convenient. Instead of having to commute to class, you can learn from the comfort of your own home. You can save a lot of money on transportation. But at the same time, that can actually be really distracting for a lot of people. It's already hard to focus in class. But if you add the daily distractions of⁶¹² family members in the house, or even your phone in front of you, you might find it hard to pay attention.

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⁶⁰⁸ to some degree: 在某种程度上

⁶⁰⁹ At the very least: 至少, 起码

⁶¹⁰ exam-oriented: 应试的

⁶¹¹ the college entrance exams: 大学入学考试

⁶¹² add the daily distractions of: 加上...的日常干扰

Topic 41 花费超过预期

1. Do you often buy more than you expected?

Yeah, I've found that I often buy way more things than I was planning for. I think that happens the most often when I'm grocery-shopping. Everyone says that you shouldn't buy groceries when you're hungry, which I definitely agree with. Even though I always make a list before I go shopping, I get more than I planned for because all the food looks so appealing. It's hard to have any self-control⁶¹³.

2. What do you think young people spend most of their money on?

I think that young people like to spend their money on new clothes and new technology. A lot of young people are very concerned about what other people think of them, so they want to wear the newest clothes and own the newest phones and devices. Plus, since they don't usually have other responsibilities like paying bills or covering other people's needs⁶¹⁴, they're free to spend their money on⁶¹⁵ luxury items as well. For example, some young people like buying designer shoes and bags.

3. Do you think it is important to save money? Why?

Yes, it's definitely important to save money. Even if you're comfortable financially, you should be thinking ahead⁶¹⁶. Anything could happen, and you might find that suddenly you need money to pay for a damaged car or laptop. In case of emergencies, you should always have some extra money lying around⁶¹⁷. So it's good to make plans for your money and try to save up. It's also good to save money for fun things like vacations.

见下页

⁶¹³ It's hard to have any self-control: 很难有自制力; 很难控制住自己

⁶¹⁴ paying bills or covering other people's needs: 支付账单或照顾他人的生活需求

⁶¹⁵ free to spend their money on: 自由地把钱花在...上

⁶¹⁶ should be thinking ahead: 应该提前考虑

⁶¹⁷ have some extra money lying around: 手头有闲钱

4. Why are some rich people reluctant to spend money on others or even themselves?

Well, sometimes, rich people don't want to spend money because they're very protective of their wealth⁶¹⁸. It seems confusing since they could definitely afford to splurge, but I think that the more money you get, the more you want to hold on to it so you can have even more. Plus, some people become rich after being poor or middle-class, so they have the old mindset of needing to save every penny⁶¹⁹.

5. Do people buy things they don't need?

Yes, people definitely buy things they don't need from time to time. Even when they go grocery shopping, it's easy to pick up ingredients that weren't on their list because they look really appealing in the moment. Plus, some people go out and buy things they don't need as a form of therapy and relaxation⁶²⁰- this is where the phrase retail therapy comes from⁶²¹.

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⁶¹⁸ very protective of their wealth: 非常守财；对他们的财产保护欲很强

⁶¹⁹ have the old mindset of needing to save every penny: 有需要节省每一分钱的旧心态

⁶²⁰ as a form of therapy and relaxation: 作为一种治疗和放松的方式

⁶²¹ this is where the phrase retail therapy comes from: 这就是“购物疗法”这个短语的由来

Topic 42 生活中不可或缺的东西

1. Why do children always bring toys with them wherever they go?

I think children like bringing toys with them because it gives them a sense of comfort and security⁶²². Toys make children feel at home, so when they have to leave to go grocery-shopping or run other errands with their parents⁶²³, it helps to have a toy with them. Toys also keep children entertained. Children love playing with toys when they're out and about⁶²⁴. I've often seen kids playing with a toy while they wait in line with their parents at the store.

2. Why do many people have difficulty throwing things away?

Well, it's because a lot of people attach sentimental value to their things⁶²⁵. They might have really good memories associated with an object, which makes it tough to throw it away. For example, someone may hold onto something⁶²⁶ that they won't use anymore just because it was a gift from their best friend when they were young. It might seem silly to some people, but lots of items hold treasured memories⁶²⁷.

3. Why are children attracted to new things (such as electronics)?

Some children are attracted to new things like electronics because they want to be like their friends. As they get older, children experience more and more peer pressure⁶²⁸ to be like others around them. They can become very competitive, so they always want to have the latest gadget⁶²⁹ or the newest clothes. Children also get bored of things more quickly than adults, because a lot of children have short attention spans⁶³⁰. This means that they will want new stuff more often.

4. What do you think influences people to buy new things?

I suppose that people buy new things for many different reasons, but one of the biggest influences would be advertising. People are constantly seeing ads everywhere they look, from their phone, to their emails, to magazines and billboards. A lot of companies will track your purchases on their website⁶³¹, and then send you targeted ads based on what you like to buy. This can make it hard to resist, especially if you have a lot of expendable income⁶³² to spend on new stuff.

见下页

⁶²² it gives them a sense of comfort and security: 它（玩具）给他们一种舒适和安全的感受

⁶²³ run other errands with their parents: 和父母一起做其他事情（的时候）；和父母一起出去办事

⁶²⁴ when they're out and about: 当他们外出玩的时候；out and about 意思是“户外活动；出去散步活动”

⁶²⁵ attach sentimental value to their things: 对他们的东西附上了一些情感的价值；对他们的东西有情感上的价值

⁶²⁶ hold onto something: 一直留着一些东西

⁶²⁷ lots of items hold treasured memories: 许多物品都珍藏着珍贵的回忆

⁶²⁸ peer pressure: 同辈压力；同龄人的压力

⁶²⁹ the latest gadget: 最新的小玩意

⁶³⁰ have short attention spans: 有很短的注意力持续时间；注意力持续时间很短

⁶³¹ track your purchases on their website: 在他们的网站上跟踪你的购物记录

⁶³² have a lot of expendable income: 有很多可支配收入

5. Do people have more choices now when they are shopping?

People definitely have more choices in terms of how they shop, but they don't necessarily have more choices in terms of what they buy. The items that people buy tend to stay within the same few categories, including electronics, jewelry, clothing, and sporting goods. This hasn't really changed. However, people have many more options now about how to shop, due to the rise of online shopping⁶³³. People can choose to have their items shipped to them, or to order them to be ready for pick up at the store.

6. Does social media increase sales?

Yes, I would say that social media, if used effectively, can increase a company's sales. Tons of companies have a marketing department dedicated to increasing sales through social media and other forms of marketing. They could advertise their products directly or work with social media influencers⁶³⁴. Plus, you can see new purchases that your friends share on Weibo or WeChat, which might get you interested in buying those things as well. So it's true that⁶³⁵ social media is a great way for companies to connect with people who may not otherwise have heard about their business.

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⁶³³ due to the rise of online shopping: 由于网购的兴起;
由于网购的流行

⁶³⁴ work with social media influencers: 和社媒大 V (网

红) 合作

⁶³⁵ it's true that: 确实是...

Topic 43 优质服务

1. What do you think of the relationship between companies and customers?

I think that nowadays, customers feel more entitled than ever⁶³⁶ to a good relationship with a company. And companies definitely want to make customers feel valued because they want their business. Companies will put in extra effort to show that⁶³⁷ they care about their customers' business. Sometimes they send personalized cards or emails. In return⁶³⁸, customers usually develop loyalty to a certain company. They'll only do business with them because they feel important.

2. As a customer, what kinds of services would you expect to receive from a company?

I would expect to have a certain degree of familiarity⁶³⁹. You know, it's nice to at least get emails addressed to my name, and not just addressed to "Dear Customer." When companies take the time to add personal touches, it makes me feel like my business matters more to them. I would also expect to get great customer service. If I have a problem and need to get in touch, I should be able to do that in a quick and efficient manner⁶⁴⁰.

3. What kinds of jobs involve coping with the public?

There are lots of jobs in the public sector⁶⁴¹ that involve dealing with the public head-on⁶⁴². For example, if you work in emergency services as a firefighter or paramedic⁶⁴³, you have to deal with the public every day. People who work at hospitals or any kind of service job also have lots of face-to-face interactions. Those jobs can often be very demanding⁶⁴⁴ because people can be very unpredictable and hard to deal with at times.

4. What traits do people need to have if they need to provide service to the public?

I think patience is probably the number one trait that people should have if they provide service to the public. People can be very demanding, which might make you tempted to lose your temper⁶⁴⁵. But you have to be patient and professional when dealing with difficult people. People can also be unpredictable, so you have to be flexible. You have to stay on your toes⁶⁴⁶ and be able to adapt to any situation.

见下页

⁶³⁶ feel more entitled than ever: 感觉比以往任何时候都更能去...

⁶³⁷ put in extra effort to show that: 付出额外的努力来表明

⁶³⁸ In return: 作为报答

⁶³⁹ have a certain degree of familiarity: 有一定程度的亲近感或熟悉感

⁶⁴⁰ in a quick and efficient manner: 以一种快速而有效

的方式

⁶⁴¹ in the public sector: 在公共服务领域

⁶⁴² head-on: 正面的

⁶⁴³ paramedic: 急救护理人员

⁶⁴⁴ demanding: 要求很高

⁶⁴⁵ lose your temper: 发脾气

⁶⁴⁶ stay on your toes: 随时待命

5. Should people receive training before they provide service to the public?

Yes, people should definitely receive training for that kind of job. Even if you're a people person⁶⁴⁷, you probably won't be prepared for how demanding working with the public is. Providing services to the public requires a lot of patience and flexibility. You need to be able to deal with a variety of problems, which training can help you prepare for. Besides that, you might have to learn how to deal with emergency situations.

6. What are the common customer service problems that companies often need to deal with?

I suppose that a major customer service problem is when a customer wants to cancel something they've purchased from a company. For example, a lot of people might want to cancel or change their internet plans. So they have to spend a lot of time talking to the internet company's customer service line⁶⁴⁸. Companies also have to deal with complaints about their products or services, which aren't pleasant for customer service workers to handle⁶⁴⁹.

7. Why should companies react quickly when customers have difficulties?

Well, companies should be quick to respond when customers are having problems because it helps improve their brand⁶⁵⁰. If they're known for being fast and reliable, then that customer will probably stay with them even though they're encountering difficulties with their product or service. Customer loyalty⁶⁵¹ is super valuable to companies, so they want to make sure that they retain their business⁶⁵². If they're slow and unhelpful, customers will probably move on to another company.

8. Why do some companies respond to customers so slowly when they need to solve problems for customers?

I think that it depends on the situation. Sometimes a company wants to make sure that the customer gets the best service, so they'll go the extra mile to solve the problem⁶⁵³. However, that might result in the customer waiting for a long time for the issue to get resolved. Other times, the company might not have a good protocol in place for⁶⁵⁴ dealing with an issue, so it gets fixed at a snail's pace⁶⁵⁵. They also might not have enough employees to deal with the problem.

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⁶⁴⁷ a people person: 善于跟人交往的人

⁶⁴⁸ talking to the internet company's customer service line: 与互联网公司客服热线通话

⁶⁴⁹ aren't pleasant for customer service workers to handle: 对客服人员来说不是高兴的事

⁶⁵⁰ improve their brand: 提高他们的品牌影响力

⁶⁵¹ Customer loyalty: 客户忠诚度

⁶⁵² retain their business: 保留他们的业务

⁶⁵³ go the extra mile to solve the problem: 会加倍努力去解决问题

⁶⁵⁴ might not have a good protocol in place for: 可能没有一个很好的规程去实施来...

⁶⁵⁵ at a snail's pace: 非常慢的速度

Topic 44 免费物品

1. Do you think people should pay for higher education? Why?

No, I suppose that higher education should be sponsored by the government⁶⁵⁶. We are living in a society in which the majority of available jobs require a degree in higher education. So if the tuition is too high, young people from poor families might lose their opportunities to receive a college education, which costs them a brighter future⁶⁵⁷. As such⁶⁵⁸, universities, colleges, and trade schools should be sponsored by the government just like elementary and middle schools are. There should still be an academic or skill based requirement to get in, but money should not be an issue⁶⁵⁹. I think that is the fairest solution.

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

I think free education would be a very good thing because it would help people to get out of poverty⁶⁶⁰. Often the people who cannot access higher education are from impoverished⁶⁶¹ families, and it becomes a cycle of poverty⁶⁶² because without higher education, you cannot get a high paying job. Free education would make things more equal for everyone, and would get more people into the careers that they desire. Some countries, like Scotland and Sweden, have already made higher education free.

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

A lot of companies will give their customers gifts in order to encourage them to buy more products or services. Some gifts might include a holiday gift that is sent out to their regular customers⁶⁶³, a discount code⁶⁶⁴ that they can use on a purchase, or samples of new products. These gifts are great for marketing. And they are also a good way to ensure that customers are happy with the company's service, and to encourage customers to recommend the company to their friends. Many large companies give gifts regularly.

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

Well, no one would say no to free stuff, and when it's from a brand that you like, that's even better. When a company gives out free samples or trials⁶⁶⁵, it means you can try out more of the company's products without paying money. Besides, some companies like giving out free coupons⁶⁶⁶ at events, which means you can spend less on their products. So, all customers like and expect all kinds of free gifts provided by various companies.

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⁶⁵⁶ be sponsored by the government: 由政府来财政支持

⁶⁵⁷ costs them a brighter future: 让他们失去了一个更光明的未来

⁶⁵⁸ As such: 同样的

⁶⁵⁹ money should not be an issue: 钱不应该是被争论的问题

⁶⁶⁰ get out of poverty: 脱贫

⁶⁶¹ impoverished: 贫穷的

⁶⁶² it becomes a cycle of poverty: 一个贫穷的(恶性)循环

⁶⁶³ is sent out to their regular customers: 送给老客户

⁶⁶⁴ a discount code: 折扣码

⁶⁶⁵ trials: 免费试用

⁶⁶⁶ giving out free coupons: 发放免费优惠券

Topic 45 给他人建议

1. Should people prepare before giving advice?

Well, it depends. Sometimes people will ask you for advice without any warning⁶⁶⁷. So you won't have time to prepare an answer. Other times⁶⁶⁸, you might be able to prepare. This is especially true if giving advice is part of your job, such as if you are a teacher, mentor, or therapist⁶⁶⁹. In those cases, you have to prepare because your advice might have a huge impact on people's lives.

2. Is it good to ask advice from strangers online?

I don't think it's good to ask advice from strangers online. Children or teenagers should especially be cautious about⁶⁷⁰ seeking advice online. They can't tell whether the strangers are helping them or harming them. Plus, people can lie about their identities online⁶⁷¹. It can be very dangerous to share a lot of personal information online with someone you don't know. So I would advise not contacting strangers online for anything.

3. What are the personalities of people whose job is to give advice to others?

I think these people are very understanding and patient. They can relate to a problem that their clients are facing⁶⁷² and give good advice. They can imagine how their clients feel and understand their situation as much as possible. That way, they can give the best advice based on each individual situation. Plus, they need to be patient because sometimes people might be upset when they ask for advice.

4. What are the problems if you ask too many people for advice?

If you get too much advice, you might get confused. I mean, if you ask for advice from more than two people and they have different opinions, that can be very frustrating and not helpful. It's normal that everyone has their own perspective. They might give you opposite advice but all make sense⁶⁷³. In that case, you might not be able to decide what to do next. So it might be better to ask just one trusted friend.

见下页

⁶⁶⁷ without any warning: 毫无任何预兆的

⁶⁶⁸ Other times: 其他时候, 其他情况下

⁶⁶⁹ therapist: 心理治疗师

⁶⁷⁰ be cautious about: 对...小心谨慎

⁶⁷¹ lie about their identities online: 在网上隐瞒自己的真

实身份

⁶⁷² They can relate to a problem that their clients are facing: 意思是他们能理解客户正在遇到的问题

⁶⁷³ give you opposite advice but all make sense: 给的意見相反但却都是有道理的

5. What kinds of advice do parents give to their children?

Parents want their children to succeed and be happy. So they give them advice that will help with that. For instance, if children are facing a problem, parents will encourage them to not give up. Or they might tell their children to be optimistic instead of complaining⁶⁷⁴. Everyone wants their kid to do well, so they give them the best advice they can.

6. What advice do parents often give to teenagers about making friends?

Usually, parents encourage teenagers to be active when it comes to making friends. It's easier to befriend someone⁶⁷⁵ when you start the conversation first. A lot of parents also tell teenagers not to give into peer pressure⁶⁷⁶. Sometimes when you make friends, you might be tempted to⁶⁷⁷ follow what they are doing. But it's best to stick to your guns⁶⁷⁸ and avoid doing anything stupid.

7. Should parents get involved in their children's friendships?

I don't think parents should take actions with their children's friendships, even if they fight with their friends⁶⁷⁹. If parents help too much, they might make the situation even worse. They can just teach their children what qualities a good friend should have. They can let them choose who to be friends with.

8. How do experts give advice to others? (e.g. a doctor gives advice to his patients); What personal qualities should experts have?

Well, experts are very calm and helpful when they give advice. They try to give us all the right information. And if needed, they can explain it more than once so we can fully understand. So to be an expert in something⁶⁸⁰, you should be patient and hardworking. You can't just give up when things get hard. Otherwise, you won't do very well in your field.

9. Whose advice is more helpful? Parents' or friends'?

I think parents' advice is more helpful. Your friends might know you even better than your parents do. But your parents have more experience. They've been alive longer⁶⁸¹ than you or your friends. So it's best to listen to their advice. Your friends might give you bad advice even if they don't mean to⁶⁸². I always listen to my parents before my friends.

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⁶⁷⁴ be optimistic instead of complaining: 乐观一些，不要只是抱怨

⁶⁷⁵ befriend someone: 和某人成为朋友

⁶⁷⁶ give into peer pressure: 屈服于同伴的压力

⁶⁷⁷ be tempted to: 受到诱惑

⁶⁷⁸ stick to your guns: 坚持自己的立场

⁶⁷⁹ fight with their friends: 和朋友争吵打架

⁶⁸⁰ to be an expert in something: 成为某方面的专家

⁶⁸¹ They've been alive longer: 他们比你活的久，比你走的路要多

⁶⁸² even if they don't mean to: 即使他们不是故意的

Topic 46 善待不喜欢的人

1. Why are people friendly with people they don't like?

Some people are friendly with people they don't like because they need to maintain a civil, polite relationship with them⁶⁸³. This is especially true in situations where other people are involved. For example, if a husband and wife get divorced, they will likely continue to be friendly towards each other for the sake of⁶⁸⁴ their children. If two employees have a falling out⁶⁸⁵, they will continue to be polite since they work together.

2. What kinds of people are usually friendly?

People who are usually friendly are those who are in careers that require them to deal with people on a daily basis. The best example of this would be teachers and nurses. Teachers and nurses work with people of all ages every day, and often these people are vulnerable. They need to be very friendly in order to make people feel at ease⁶⁸⁶. Plus, some people are more naturally friendly than others if they are more extroverted. They are more outgoing and enjoy being around people.

3. What are the differences between being friendly and being polite?

I would say that the main difference between being friendly and being polite is enthusiasm. People who are being polite may exchange pleasantries and have a conversation, but they will not discuss their personal lives or get too excited. On the other hand, if someone is being friendly they are more likely to share personal details and speak with enthusiasm and emotion⁶⁸⁷. Being friendly means that you are more comfortable with the person to whom you are speaking.

见下页

⁶⁸³ maintain a civil, polite relationship with them: 与他们保持一种文明礼貌的关系

⁶⁸⁴ for the sake of: 为了...

⁶⁸⁵ have a falling out: 大吵一架

⁶⁸⁶ make people feel at ease: 让人感到轻松自在

⁶⁸⁷ speak with enthusiasm and emotion: 说话时充满热情和激情

4. What do you think of the people who are always straightforward?

I like people who are always straightforward because I appreciate their honesty and efficiency. These types of people will always tell you the truth, and are never afraid to share their honest opinion. Sometimes straightforward people may be perceived as blunt or rude⁶⁸⁸, however I would say that is a misconception⁶⁸⁹. Straightforward people are not trying to be rude, they are trying to be honest. Some people may also have trouble reading social cues⁶⁹⁰, so they act very straightforward all the time.

5. What do you think of a person who seems so nice and friendly no matter what happens?

I suppose that people who can keep their cool⁶⁹¹, no matter what's going on, are very respectable. Although to be honest, I'm always a little suspicious⁶⁹² when people are nice and friendly even if they're dealing with rude people. It makes me wonder if they're actually that nice, or if they're just being polite. Either way, I really respect people who can continue to be kind even if they're in a tense situation⁶⁹³.

6. When would you be friendly to someone you don't like?

I think I would have to be friendly to someone I didn't like if I was on the clock⁶⁹⁴. You know, when you're at your job, you're expected to be nice to the people you interact with, no matter what. It's a measure of your professionalism. And it's definitely not professional to lash out at someone⁶⁹⁵ or lose your temper while you're at work. Otherwise, I would be nice to someone I didn't like if I was trying to make a good impression on the other people around us.

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⁶⁸⁸ be perceived as blunt or rude: 被认为是鲁莽或粗鲁的

⁶⁸⁹ misconception: 误解

⁶⁹⁰ have trouble reading social cues: 理解社交暗示方面有困难

⁶⁹¹ keep their cool: 保持冷静

⁶⁹² suspicious: 可疑的; 怀疑的

⁶⁹³ in a tense situation: 在紧张的情况下

⁶⁹⁴ if I was on the clock: 如果我在工作的话

⁶⁹⁵ lash out at someone: 对别人大发脾气

Topic 47 令人激动的书

1. What kinds of books do Chinese people like reading?

I think that Chinese people like to read a great variety of different books; it really depends on the individual person, since everyone has different tastes⁶⁹⁶ when it comes to books and movies. Chinese literature has a long history of folklore and legends⁶⁹⁷, so many Chinese people may like to read these traditional stories as a starting point⁶⁹⁸. Plus, children may prefer fiction books, while adults may prefer nonfiction books such as biographies and history books.

2. Do boys and girls like the same kinds of books?

I suppose that this depends on the person's preferences⁶⁹⁹; some girls love the romantic comedy genre, while others love horror novels. The same is true for boys. Honestly, boys are discouraged at a young age from liking⁷⁰⁰ romantic or dramatic books, and are instead encouraged to read nonfiction or action books. This really limits the kind of things that they read, and I suppose that both boys and girls should explore a wide variety of literary genres⁷⁰¹.

3. Do you think it is very important to read the book before watching the movie version of it?

No, I don't think so. Even though I love reading, and personally I like reading the book before seeing the movie, it's fine to just watch the movie by itself⁷⁰². I suppose that when it comes to movies, it's sometimes better to watch it without knowing anything about the story. Sometimes, you can be disappointed if you watch the movie version because it might not live up to the book⁷⁰³.

见下页

⁶⁹⁶ everyone has different tastes: 每个人的品味都不同

⁶⁹⁷ has a long history of folklore and legends: 有历史悠久的民间传说和神话

⁶⁹⁸ as a starting point: 作为起点

⁶⁹⁹ depends on the person's preferences: 这取决于个人的喜好

⁷⁰⁰ discouraged at a young age from liking: 从小就不被鼓励喜欢...

⁷⁰¹ explore a wide variety of literary genres: 探索各种各样的文学流派(文学体裁)

⁷⁰² watch the movie by itself: 只看电影本身

⁷⁰³ it might not live up to the book: 它可能不符合原著

4. Do you prefer books or movies?

I prefer books. Even though movies are really entertaining to watch, books are just more interesting to me. I like reading a character's thoughts instead of hearing them get narrated on the screen⁷⁰⁴. When I'm reading a book, I can also picture everything for myself⁷⁰⁵. It takes a lot of imagination, which is what I find fun about the reading process. I think books are also a more relaxing way to spend time than a movie, which can be loud and intense.

5. Did you read more magazines or books when you were a child?

I definitely read way more magazines than books in my childhood. Honestly, I wasn't fond of books until I grew up. Books, especially textbooks, were just too complicated and tedious for me. But reading magazines was a lot of fun when I was a student. I was a huge fan of sci-fi magazines back then⁷⁰⁶. I even subscribed to a magazine called The Sci-Fi World. I was really fascinated by it and could read the issues day in and day out⁷⁰⁷.

6. Do you think e-books will eventually replace paper books?

Although e-books are becoming very popular, I don't think that they will ever completely replace paper books. The reason for this is that people who love reading generally prefer paper books. Reading on paper is easier on your eyes⁷⁰⁸, and it's also great for students because they can highlight, underline, or write notes in the margin⁷⁰⁹ if they are using a paper copy. Paper books are also great to wrap up and give as gifts⁷¹⁰!

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⁷⁰⁴ hearing them get narrated on the screen: 听到他们在屏幕上被叙述

⁷⁰⁵ picture everything for myself: 自己在脑海中想象一切

⁷⁰⁶ back then: 那时候

⁷⁰⁷ day in and day out: 天天; 夜以继日

⁷⁰⁸ easier on your eyes: 对你的眼睛更舒服

⁷⁰⁹ highlight, underline, or write notes in the margin: 划上高光、下划线或在页边空白处作笔记

⁷¹⁰ wrap up and give as gifts: (适合) 包装并作为礼物赠送

Topic 48 运动员

1. What kinds of exercises do Chinese people like?

Chinese people usually like exercising with others so they can socialize at the same time. Lots of people like to run or bike together. You can also see people doing tai-chi or going for a walk in public parks. It's nice because it's a way to stay fit while also catching up with⁷¹¹ friends or even family. When it comes to sports, I think a lot of Chinese people enjoy football because you get to run in a really large field as well as have a lot of fun playing against the other team⁷¹².

2. What's the difference of the sports liked by young people and those liked by the old?

I think young people like more intense sports, like basketball or soccer. They like activities where they have to constantly stay moving. Those kinds of sports require fast reflexes⁷¹³ and lots of endurance⁷¹⁴. But old people tend to like sports that are more relaxed, so they might play something like golf. Badminton and tennis are good options for those who still have a lot of energy and strength.

3. Why do some people like to work out at a gym?

I would say that some people enjoy working out at a gym because there's professional equipment there that they wouldn't have in their own homes. For example, not everybody can afford to get a treadmill⁷¹⁵. But if they get a gym membership, they can use a treadmill and other types of workout equipment. Other people like going to the gym because they can work with personal trainers or just enjoy other people's company⁷¹⁶ while they work out.

4. What characteristics do you think an athlete should have?

I suppose that an athlete should be hard-working, patient, and confident in themselves⁷¹⁷. They need to be dedicated if they're going to train and keep improving their skills as an athlete. They also need to be patient and not give up, even if it takes a long time to achieve their goals. But maybe most importantly, they have to believe in themselves. They have to know that they're capable of working hard and doing well.

见下页

⁷¹¹ stay fit while also catching up with: 既能保持健康，又能和...相聚

⁷¹² playing against the other team: 和其他队（另一个队）比赛

⁷¹³ fast reflexes: 快速反应能力

⁷¹⁴ endurance: 耐力

⁷¹⁵ treadmill: 跑步机

⁷¹⁶ enjoy other people's company: 享受他人的陪伴

⁷¹⁷ confident in themselves: 对自己有信心

5. Why are there so few top athletes?

I think it's because the field of sports is extremely competitive. Many people want to be athletes just because they think they're decent at a sport⁷¹⁸. But apart from athletic talents, it takes true grit⁷¹⁹, dedication, and hard work to make it as a professional athlete, which is so hard. In a sports game, only one team or one athlete can be the champion. So even among professional athletes, there are only a few who can truly rise above⁷²⁰ and perform the best.

6. What's the best way to become a top athlete?

It seems to me that the best way to become a top athlete is to keep training and setting new goals. If you get too satisfied with where you're at⁷²¹, you might not be able to keep advancing through the different levels. I think you should definitely get a coach as well. You need someone with advanced expertise to guide you as an athlete and get you to stay on the right path⁷²².

7. Do people often do exercises or sports nowadays?

Yeah, nowadays, people pay more and more attention to their health. So there are actually a lot of people who are really into exercising⁷²³, whether that's at the gym or by playing a sport. Young people in particular like being active. They're always looking for new ways to get fit, whether it's by doing some kind of diet or trying a new form of exercise. A lot of older people enjoy sports as well, though they may pick more relaxed activities like golf.

8. What can the government do to encourage people to do exercise?

I think the government could invest more money in sports facilities and gyms. If they can make those places appealing, more people would be interested in going to work out there. To that end⁷²⁴, it would be great if they could support gyms and help make memberships less expensive. The government can also support natural spaces like public parks so people can exercise surrounded by nature⁷²⁵. There's nothing nicer than⁷²⁶ doing yoga or tai-chi in the park.

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⁷¹⁸ they think they're decent at a sport: 他们认为自己擅长一项运动

⁷¹⁹ it takes true grit: 这需要真正的勇气

⁷²⁰ truly rise above: 超越 (其他运动员)

⁷²¹ get too satisfied with where you're at: 对自己的现状太过满意

⁷²² get you to stay on the right path: 让你走在正确的

道路上

⁷²³ are really into exercising: 很喜欢锻炼

⁷²⁴ To that end: 为了那个目的

⁷²⁵ exercise surrounded by nature: 在自然的环境中锻炼

⁷²⁶ There's nothing nicer than: 没有比这更好的了

Topic 49 小时候喜欢的玩具

1. What are the differences when choosing toys for boys and girls? Do boys and girls like the same toys?

I think boys usually like toys that they can be more active with. For example, they might like kites because they can run around⁷²⁷ and burn some energy with them. They're also obsessed with toys that can move, like cars and trains, which seem more interesting for them than toys that can't. Girls, on the other hand, are predisposed to socializing⁷²⁸. So they are more in favor of toys that they can talk to or pretend to talk to. For example, dolls are popular with girls because they can dress them up and use their imagination to play with them.

2. What's the difference between the toys kids play with now and those they played with in the past?

Well, in the past, toys were a lot simpler. Kids would play with things like blocks or puzzles. Some kids had dolls, but they weren't fancy or anything⁷²⁹. Nowadays, dolls are super customizable⁷³⁰ and come with tons of outfits and accessories. Kids also have more advanced toys, like remote cars, electronic toys and even smart toys that can link with smartphones. Plus, some kids have really complicated LEGO sets that they play with.

3. What's your opinion when choosing a gift for kids?

It seems to me that when you get a gift for a kid, you should get them something that's suited to their tastes⁷³¹. For example, if you know that a kid really likes dinosaurs, getting them a robotic dinosaur toy would be a thoughtful gift. Besides, you don't want to get them anything too complicated or expensive. They might break it, or get frustrated with it and not enjoy it. Sometimes it's helpful to consult with their parents first so you get them something they'll like.

4. What do parents usually buy for their children to make them happy?

I suppose that parents like to buy toys for their kids to make them happy. But it's not always about getting them the newest gadget⁷³², though. In general, a lot of parents like to show their love for their kids by getting them things that they know they'll enjoy. When parents give their kids something thoughtful, their kids feel happy because then they know that their parents care about their interests. Like active kids are definitely happier to receive a skateboard from their parents than something else like a plush toy⁷³³.

见下页

⁷²⁷ run around: 到处跑

⁷²⁸ are predisposed to socializing: 更倾向于社交

⁷²⁹ weren't fancy or anything: 一点都不觉得精致什么的（常用的口语表述方式）

⁷³⁰ customizable: 可定制的

⁷³¹ suited to their tastes: 符合他们的口味

⁷³² the newest gadget: 最新的小玩意

⁷³³ a plush toy: 毛绒玩具

5. Can girls play with toys that boys like to play with?

Yes, absolutely. I think that nowadays, most toys are unisex⁷³⁴, meaning that either girls or boys would enjoy playing with them. But when it comes to toys that are specifically geared towards boys⁷³⁵, I don't think there's anything wrong with girls enjoying them as well. It doesn't really make sense to separate toys like that. If girls find those toys fun, then they should be able to play with them.

6. Do you think parents should buy more toys for their kids or spend more time with them?

It seems to me that parents should spend more time with their kids. Buying toys for their kids is always a nice gesture⁷³⁶, but it doesn't compare to⁷³⁷ quality time. I think the best solution is playing with their kids. And I believe kids love hanging out with their parents. When they have their parents with them, they also get to bond and build up that relationship. Nothing is more valuable than spending time with your family.

7. Should advertising aimed at kids be prohibited?

I don't think it should be prohibited, but it should definitely be limited. There are some good examples of kids' advertising. For example, if a museum is trying to attract more kids, they might have child-centred ads that show how fun educational content can be. I think that's fine. But advertising for toys and other things can make kids too materialistic⁷³⁸. So that should be monitored and restrained to some extent⁷³⁹.

8. How do advertisements influence children?

Advertisements can appeal to kids really effectively. By using bright colours and interesting visuals⁷⁴⁰, they make the kids think that they need whatever product is being advertised. They might even influence kids to ask their parents for a certain toy. It can have the effect of making kids greedy and obsessed with having the newest thing. Kids can fall prey to⁷⁴¹ advertisements very easily since they're so young and impressionable⁷⁴².

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⁷³⁴ unisex: 男女皆宜的; 不分男女的

⁷³⁵ specifically geared towards boys: 专门为男孩设计的

⁷³⁶ always a nice gesture: 总是很好的举动

⁷³⁷ but it doesn't compare to: 但是和...没法比

⁷³⁸ materialistic: 太注重金钱的, 物质至上的

⁷³⁹ be monitored and restrained to some extent: 在某种程度上受到监控和限制

⁷⁴⁰ visuals: 视觉效果

⁷⁴¹ fall prey to: 成为...的牺牲品/受害者

⁷⁴² impressionable: 易受影响的

Topic 50 敬佩的商人

1. What kinds of qualities do people need to run their own business?

I think people need to be intelligent, determined, resilient⁷⁴³, and enthusiastic in order to run their own business. People need to be smart enough to assess their target market⁷⁴⁴ and design a business that is appropriate for their customers. Plus, they need to be determined and resilient because running a business comes with many challenges and ups and downs⁷⁴⁵. Finally, people need to be enthusiastic in order to inspire their employees and come up with unique ideas.

2. What fields do young people like to engage in when they start a business and why?

I would say that young people like the art and technology sectors⁷⁴⁶ when it comes to starting a business. A lot of young people are really creative and want to sell the things they make. I know many people who sell pins, prints, and other art products for a living⁷⁴⁷. If they have a unique style, it's easy for them to become successful. Technology is also a good area to start a business in⁷⁴⁸, especially as people come up with more and more new apps.

3. Is it better to start a business alone or start as a team?

Well, it would be better to start a business as a team, because that way you can come up with double the ideas and double the financial capital⁷⁴⁹ to make your business a success. On your own⁷⁵⁰, you have no one to talk to for advice, which can make it really difficult to make decisions and take risks. Having a partner or a team also means that you can divide up the workload⁷⁵¹ and avoid becoming burnt out⁷⁵².

见下页

⁷⁴³ resilient: 韧性；对困难的适应性

⁷⁴⁴ assess their target market: 评估他们的目标市场

⁷⁴⁵ ups and downs: 起起伏伏

⁷⁴⁶ the art and technology sectors: 艺术和科技领域

⁷⁴⁷ sell pins, prints, and other art products for a living: 以卖装饰别针、版画和其他工艺品为生

⁷⁴⁸ to start a business in: 来创业；一个创业的（好领

域）

⁷⁴⁹ double the ideas and double the financial capital: 双倍的点子和双倍的资本；这里是一种形容，指更多的生意点子和启动资本

⁷⁵⁰ On your own: 你一个人的话，...

⁷⁵¹ divide up the workload: 分配工作；把工作量分开

⁷⁵² burnt out: 心力交瘁；累崩了

4. What do you think are the key factors that contribute to the success of a business?

I think that creativity, determination, and flexibility are the main factors that make a business successful. In order to make it⁷⁵³, you need to have a unique approach. Since there are so many businesses out there, you have to be creative enough to set yourself apart⁷⁵⁴. Businesses also need to be led by people who are hard-working and determined to meet their goals, no matter what obstacles they face. In today's world⁷⁵⁵, a business owner should also be flexible to adapt to different situations and needs⁷⁵⁶.

5. If you had the opportunity to have your own business, what business would it be? Why?

I would love to open a small shop that sells books and also has a café so that people can sit and enjoy a coffee and a snack. I love to read so I think that I would be able to understand my target market very well⁷⁵⁷ and predict their needs and wants⁷⁵⁸, which is an important part of owning a business. I also think that there is always a need for more cafes, so I would have a lot of customers.

6. What do you think is the retirement age for men and women?

I would say that anyone between the ages of 60-75 can choose to retire. Around that time, people are ready to settle down⁷⁵⁹, and they usually have the financial means to⁷⁶⁰ retire and live comfortably. I don't think it changes too much if it's a man or a woman retiring. Since we've come a long way in regards to gender equality⁷⁶¹, it's normal for either a man or a woman to work all the way into their sixties⁷⁶².

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⁷⁵³ In order to make it: 为了做到这一点

⁷⁵⁴ set yourself apart: 让自己与众不同

⁷⁵⁵ In today's world: 在当今世界

⁷⁵⁶ be flexible to adapt to different situations and needs: 灵活适应不同的情况和需求

⁷⁵⁷ understand my target market very well: 非常了解我的目标市场

⁷⁵⁸ predict their needs and wants: 预测他们的需求

⁷⁵⁹ ready to settle down: 可以准备安定下来; 指过安逸稳定的生活

⁷⁶⁰ have the financial means to: 有经济能力去

⁷⁶¹ we've come a long way in regards to gender equality: 在性别平等方面, 我们已经取得了长足的进步

⁷⁶² work all the way into their sixties: 一直工作到 60 岁