

2022 年 5-8 月雅思口语 Part3 保留题参考资料 (A 难度)

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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 5-8 月雅思口语 Part 3 保留题列表

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Topic 1 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 direction¹. 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-serving². For example, some people only want to get rich. They don't care about what it takes³, 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 good⁴. So there are definitely some ambitions that I would consider toxic⁵.

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 it⁶, 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 tries⁷. Most of the time, you can't make it in one shot⁸. 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 about⁹ 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 to¹⁰. Children also may have ambitions about their personal lives¹¹, 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

¹ have some sense of direction: 有方向感; 这里是指有努力的方向

² self-serving: 自私的

³ what it takes: 有什么代价 (为此会付出什么代价)

⁴ they don't lead to any good: 它们不会带来任何好处

⁵ I would consider toxic: 我认为是有毒的

⁶ dedicate yourself to following it: 致力于实现它

⁷ 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

⁸ make it in one shot: 一次就能成功

⁹ have big ambitions about: 对...有很大的抱负

¹⁰ look up to: 尊敬的; 敬佩的

¹¹ 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 level¹² in their job. They might start out as¹³ 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 insecurity¹⁴. They constantly feel like they have to be better than others, especially when they are in a competitive environment. The stress of being washed out¹⁵ 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 zone¹⁶, 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 to¹⁷ 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 burnout¹⁸. There are many different strategies to avoid burnout. One strategy is to ensure that your work life and your home life are physically separated¹⁹, 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 work²⁰, such as by refusing to work past your contracted hours²¹.

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¹² get promoted to a higher level: 得到提升

¹³ start out as: 从...做起; 从...开始

¹⁴ due to deep-seated insecurity: 由于根深蒂固的不安全感

¹⁵ being washed out: 被淘汰

¹⁶ stay in their comfort zone: 待在他们的舒适区

¹⁷ don't have the nerve to: 不敢去; 没有勇气去...

¹⁸ avoid exhaustion and burnout: 避免精疲力竭

¹⁹ physically separated: 物理上是分开的

²⁰ set boundaries with your work: 为你的工作设定界限

²¹ refusing to work past your contracted hours: 拒绝加班; 拒绝超时工作

Topic 2 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 responsibilities²² by making plans or budgets for the tasks beforehand. That way, you can be prepared for whatever comes your way²³. 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 tasks²⁴. 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 sections²⁵ 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 details²⁶, like your flight and hotel. If you don't want to mess up²⁷ 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 setting²⁸. 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

²² stay on top of all of your responsibilities: 掌握了解你的所有职责

²³ whatever comes your way: 遇到的任何事情

²⁴ 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

²⁵ break up the day into sections: 把一天分成几个部分

²⁶ keep track of all the details: 跟踪记下所有的细节

²⁷ mess up: 搞砸

²⁸ 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 trustworthy²⁹ if you are consistently prepared³⁰. 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 people³¹, 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 counselors³², professional cleaners, and teachers. Family and friends can also help each other become more organized by giving advice and lending a helping hand³³ when needed.

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²⁹ come to think of you as reliable and trustworthy: 会认为你是可靠和值得信赖的

³⁰ consistently prepared: 一直做好准备; 随时都准备好了

³¹ comes very naturally to some people: 对一些人来说

是很自然的

³² guidance counselors: 咨询顾问; 指导师

³³ lending a helping hand: 伸出援助之手, 助一臂之力

Topic 3 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 gifts³⁴. For example, people give their significant others³⁵ gifts on the anniversary of when they started dating, or when they got married. Sometimes people give gifts to mark special achievements³⁶, 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 to³⁷ 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 gifts³⁸ 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 tastes³⁹. So it can be hard finding something that they'll like. In other situations⁴⁰, you might have a lot of ideas for a gift, but it's challenging to narrow it down⁴¹. 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 to⁴² 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 bet⁴³.

见下页

³⁴ a good occasion for gifts: 送礼的好时机; 送礼物的好场合

³⁵ significant others: 另一半; 配偶

³⁶ give gifts to mark special achievements: 用礼物来纪念特殊的成就

³⁷ It's customary for people to: 对人们来说是个习俗...; 按照习俗, 人们会...

³⁸ give out gifts: 给礼物; 送礼物

³⁹ unsure of their tastes: 不确定他们的品味; 不确定他们的喜好

⁴⁰ In other situations: 在其他情况下

⁴¹ narrow it down: 缩小 (选择范围)

⁴² it can be tricky to: 这是很棘手的

⁴³ 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 counts⁴⁴. 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 value⁴⁵. For example, if they're not trying to break the bank⁴⁶, 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 mile⁴⁷. 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 relatives⁴⁸ or casual friends⁴⁹. 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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⁴⁴ it's just the thought that counts: 心意才是最重要的

⁴⁵ sentimental value: 情感价值

⁴⁶ break the bank: 倾家荡产; 花光钱

⁴⁷ going the extra mile: 付出额外的努力

⁴⁸ distant relatives: 远亲

⁴⁹ casual friends: 普通朋友

Topic 4 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 outgrown⁵⁰. It fit him to a tee⁵¹. So I'm glad that I could repurpose⁵² 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 standard⁵³. 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 professional⁵⁴ because you're doing serious business. You need to look the part⁵⁵. In most cases, it's actually considered rude to wear casual clothes to the workplace. It shows a lack of respect for⁵⁶ 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 footing⁵⁷. 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 way⁵⁸. 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 look⁵⁹. You don't get as much individuality.

见下页

⁵⁰ outgrown: 我已经太大了

⁵¹ fit him to a tee: 很适合他

⁵² repurpose: 重新利用; 重新找到用武之地

⁵³ you don't have to meet a certain standard: 你不需要达到什么标准

⁵⁴ striving to be professional: 努力变得专业

⁵⁵ look the part: 看起来像个角色; 看起来有派头

⁵⁶ It shows a lack of respect for: 这会看起来不尊重...

⁵⁷ it puts everyone on equal footing: 它让每个人都处于平等的地位

⁵⁸ 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

⁵⁹ 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 trends⁶⁰. 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 that⁶¹ countries with colder climates would wear warmer, heavier clothing, while light and bright clothing would be more popular in tropical countries⁶².

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

Yes, I think that wearing formal attire⁶³ 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 laidback⁶⁴ person. But if you're wearing a fancy dress, or a nice suit, then you look poised⁶⁵ and mature, which helps you appear professional to others. Formal clothes can make a world of difference when it comes to self-presentation⁶⁶.

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⁶⁰ societal trends: 社会趋势

⁶¹ it's natural that: 很自然的是

⁶² tropical countries: 热带国家

⁶³ wearing formal attire: 穿正装

⁶⁴ laidback: 悠闲放松

⁶⁵ poised: 稳重

⁶⁶ self-presentation: 自我展示

Topic 5 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 animal⁶⁷. For example, you can have delicacies⁶⁸ 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 altogether⁶⁹, or they might be better known for desserts instead of savoury food⁷⁰. 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 specialties⁷¹ 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 festive⁷². Plus, it's an important bonding time⁷³ 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 season⁷⁴. For example, hairy crabs⁷⁵ 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 them⁷⁶.

见下页

⁶⁷ unique parts of the animal: 动物的特殊部位

⁶⁸ delicacies: 美味佳肴; 好菜

⁶⁹ avoid using meat altogether: 完全不使用肉类

⁷⁰ savoury food: 咸食; 调味食品

⁷¹ specialties: 特色食品

⁷² makes the holiday more joyous and festive: 使节日更加欢乐和有节日气氛

⁷³ bonding time: 增进感情的时间

⁷⁴ 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)

⁷⁵ hairy crabs: 大闸蟹

⁷⁶ 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 feast⁷⁷. 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 family⁷⁸. 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 specialties⁷⁹ 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 noodles⁸⁰ 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 other⁸¹ to a fancy restaurant to celebrate their birthdays or anniversaries, or even an engagement. Even though it might cost you an arm and a leg⁸², the memories and joy from the meal you enjoy with them will make it worth every penny⁸³.

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 school⁸⁴. Everyone needs to eat, so mealtimes are an ideal opportunity to catch up⁸⁵ 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 talk⁸⁶. Some families even have strict rules such as no phones at the table so that they can communicate better.

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⁷⁷ a fancy feast: 一顿大餐

⁷⁸ vary from family to family: 每家都不同

⁷⁹ specialties: 特色食品

⁸⁰ having a bowl of long life noodles: 吃一碗长寿面

⁸¹ significant other: 配偶; 另一半

⁸² cost you an arm and a leg: 花你一大笔钱

⁸³ make it be worth every penny: 让它物有所值

⁸⁴ attending school: 上学

⁸⁵ catch up: 聊聊情况; 了解彼此情况

⁸⁶ 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 6 一个去过的地方

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-paced⁸⁷ 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 offer⁸⁸. Plus, there's always a ton of amazing food spots⁸⁹.

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 part⁹⁰, 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 college⁹¹, 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 syndrome⁹². They might not think they're ready or qualified to have their job.

见下页

⁸⁷ fast-paced: 快节奏

⁸⁸ the city has a lot to offer: 这座城市能提供给人们的
东西有很多

⁸⁹ food spots: 美食聚集地

⁹⁰ But for the most part: 但在大多数情况下

⁹¹ When they're fresh out of college: 当他们刚刚从大学毕业的时候

⁹² 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 do⁹³. 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 suspicious⁹⁴ if it's too different from what they're used to. It gets harder to embrace change⁹⁵ 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 experiences⁹⁶. 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 rut⁹⁷. 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 home⁹⁸.

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 otherwise⁹⁹. Plus, you can take in the natural scenery and do some sightseeing¹⁰⁰. 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 shock¹⁰¹ might make you feel out of place¹⁰².

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⁹³ 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

⁹⁴ suspicious: 感到可疑

⁹⁵ embrace change: 拥抱变化

⁹⁶ brand-new experiences: 全新的经历; 全新的体验

⁹⁷ get stuck in a rut: 墨守成规

⁹⁸ 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

⁹⁹ 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

¹⁰⁰ do some sightseeing: 观光

¹⁰¹ culture shock: 文化冲击

¹⁰² feel out of place: 感到格格不入

Topic 7 有趣的城市

1. What advantages can tourism bring to a city?

Well, for one thing¹⁰³, tourism can boost a city's economy¹⁰⁴. 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 infrastructure¹⁰⁵.

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 fields¹⁰⁶ like technology or finance, they're bound to find something in a city¹⁰⁷. Plus, cities have a lot more options for¹⁰⁸ 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 cities¹⁰⁹ 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 life¹¹⁰ 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 citizens¹¹¹.

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¹⁰³ for one thing: 首先; 一方面来说

¹⁰⁴ boost a city's economy: 促进城市经济发展

¹⁰⁵ invest in improving the infrastructure: 致力于改善基础设施

¹⁰⁶ modern fields: 现代的领域

¹⁰⁷ they're bound to find something in a city: 他们一定能在城市找到什么(工作)

¹⁰⁸ have a lot more options for: 有更多的选择

¹⁰⁹ thrive in cities: 在城市里发展成长

¹¹⁰ The hustle and bustle of daily life: 日常生活的喧嚣和忙碌

¹¹¹ leads to clashes with the local citizens: 导致和当地居民的冲突

Topic 8 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 cities¹¹². 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 temples¹¹³ where the local villagers who have a place on the family tree worship their ancestors¹¹⁴.

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

I suppose that people are either visiting family or going to a tourist spot¹¹⁵ 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 wonder¹¹⁶ 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 hubs¹¹⁷.

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

I would say that more and more people are gravitating towards cities¹¹⁸. 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-back¹¹⁹ 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 thrive¹²⁰. So they might hate being stuck out in the countryside¹²¹. They might get bored with the slower pace of life¹²². 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

¹¹² you're away from the hustle and bustle of major cities: 你会远离大城市的喧嚣

¹¹³ ancestry temples: 祠堂; 宗祠

¹¹⁴ 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

¹¹⁵ going to a tourist spot: 去旅游景点

¹¹⁶ natural wonder: 自然景观

¹¹⁷ the major hubs: 大城市

¹¹⁸ gravitating towards cities: 被吸引到城市

¹¹⁹ laid-back: 悠闲放松

¹²⁰ 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

¹²¹ being stuck out in the countryside: 被困在乡下; 待在乡下

¹²² 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 on¹²³. Plus, it's super crowded. It's very easy to get overwhelmed by the hustle and bustle of urban areas¹²⁴. But in the countryside, there's much more space. You can enjoy the natural scenery without bumping up against people¹²⁵ or getting stuck in a crowded area. Life goes at a slower pace, which can be a nice change.

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¹²³ Wherever you turn, there's something going on: 无论你去哪，都会遇到有意思的事情

¹²⁴ the hustle and bustle of urban areas: 城市的熙熙攘

攘；城市的喧嚣

¹²⁵ 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 9 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 scenery¹²⁶ while catching up with your friends¹²⁷. Doing something more active like biking, swimming, or playing a sport can also be a good bonding experience¹²⁸ 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 around¹²⁹. I also think they were much more active. In the old days, kids liked activities like climbing trees or catching bugs in nature. Physical exercise was a big priority¹³⁰. But nowadays, kids are addicted to video games. Of course they do outdoor activities, like riding a scooter or playing with a frisbee¹³¹, 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 then¹³². They value their leisure time because it's a way for them to relieve the pressure of their everyday lives¹³³. 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 responsibilities¹³⁴.

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 responsibilities¹³⁵. In fact, depending on the situation, women are often busier than men because they may take on extra household duties¹³⁶. 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 that¹³⁷ women just sit around doing nothing while men are working.

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¹²⁶ enjoy the scenery: 欣赏风景

¹²⁷ catching up with your friends: 和朋友聊天

¹²⁸ a good bonding experience: 一个很好的增进感情的经历

¹²⁹ chase each other around: 互相追逐

¹³⁰ Physical exercise was a big priority: 体育锻炼是重中之重

¹³¹ playing with a frisbee: 玩飞盘

¹³² have a break every now and then: 时不时休息一下

¹³³ relieve the pressure of their everyday lives: 缓解他们的日常生活压力

¹³⁴ avoid getting overwhelmed by their responsibilities: 避免被各种责任事情压垮(精神)

¹³⁵ have an equal number of responsibilities: 有差不多的责任事情

¹³⁶ take on extra household duties: 多做家务

¹³⁷ it's a stereotype that: 这是一个刻板印象

Topic 10 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 agreeable¹³⁸ 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 anyone¹³⁹. Plus, it's helpful when they aren't attention-seeking¹⁴⁰. You know, it's easy to hang out with someone who doesn't need to be the life of the party¹⁴¹. 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 much¹⁴². 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' respect¹⁴³. 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 relax¹⁴⁴. 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."¹⁴⁵

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 things¹⁴⁶. I like turning to them¹⁴⁷ whenever I'm having a personal crisis.

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¹³⁸ laidback and agreeable: 性格随和讨喜的

¹³⁹ 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

¹⁴⁰ attention-seeking: 喜欢别人关注的；寻求关注的

¹⁴¹ 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

¹⁴² 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

¹⁴³ earn their employees' respect: 赢得员工的尊重

¹⁴⁴ kick back and relax: 放松休息

¹⁴⁵ find some "me-time": 找到一些属于自己的时间

¹⁴⁶ have a good handle on things: 处事妥当；善于处事

¹⁴⁷ turning to them: 求助于他们

Topic 11 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 others¹⁴⁸. They shouldn't be rude to people or harass them in any way¹⁴⁹. 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 part¹⁵⁰, rules at school are good. They help keep everything in order¹⁵¹. 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 line¹⁵². However, some rules can be a little over the top¹⁵³. 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 growth¹⁵⁴, 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 fine¹⁵⁵. 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 deserved¹⁵⁶. If you park in front of a fire hydrant¹⁵⁷, for instance, you might make it harder for the firefighters if an emergency happened.

见下页

¹⁴⁸ act courteously towards others: 礼貌待人

¹⁴⁹ 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

¹⁵⁰ for the most part: 在大多数情况下

¹⁵¹ keep everything in order: 让一切井然有序

¹⁵² keep everyone in line: 让每个人都守规矩

¹⁵³ over the top: 有点过头

¹⁵⁴ for the sake of the children's growth: 为了孩子的成长

¹⁵⁵ That ticket usually comes with a hefty fine: 那种罚单通常伴随着巨额罚款

¹⁵⁶ it's deserved: 这是活该的; 这是应当的

¹⁵⁷ 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-abiding¹⁵⁸. But of course, there are always exceptions¹⁵⁹. 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 rush¹⁶⁰, especially during the work week. But when it comes to something more serious, like the lockdowns and mandatory testing for Covid-19¹⁶¹, it's rare to see¹⁶² Chinese people break the rules.

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¹⁵⁸ law-abiding: 守法的

¹⁵⁹ of course, there are always exceptions: 当然，凡事都有例外

¹⁶⁰ they're in a rush: 他们在着急

¹⁶¹ mandatory testing for Covid-19: 强制新冠核酸检测

¹⁶² it's rare to see: 很少见

Topic 12 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 to¹⁶³ IT companies. Besides, being a lawyer is a good profession to make top dollar¹⁶⁴, especially if you're in a high-ranking position¹⁶⁵. 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 needs¹⁶⁶, and they don't usually overwork people as much¹⁶⁷. 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 forward¹⁶⁸, that might mean that a majority of jobs can be done online. That'll definitely change the way people get jobs. An impact is that many jobs that can't be done remotely, like retail and tour guides, might be gone for good¹⁶⁹ because of the lockdowns during the pandemic.

见下页

¹⁶³ flock to: 蜂拥而至

¹⁶⁴ make top dollar: 赚大钱

¹⁶⁵ in a high-ranking position: 身居高位

¹⁶⁶ 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

¹⁶⁷ they don't usually overwork people as much: 他们通常不会让员工过度工作

¹⁶⁸ Going forward: 未来

¹⁶⁹ 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 wage¹⁷⁰. 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 shame¹⁷¹ because those jobs are really important for keeping society functioning¹⁷². 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 course¹⁷³. 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 means¹⁷⁴, but they should learn how to communicate well and make a persuasive argument. It will help them advance in their careers¹⁷⁵, 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 jobs¹⁷⁶.

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 experience¹⁷⁷. However, if an older person has been working at a company for many years, they may have a higher level of pay¹⁷⁸ 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 pay¹⁷⁹.

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¹⁷⁰ get minimum wage: 拿最低工资

¹⁷¹ It's such a shame: 这是非常令人遗憾的

¹⁷² keeping society functioning: 保持社会正常运转

¹⁷³ a required course: 必修课

¹⁷⁴ by any means: 不管怎么说

¹⁷⁵ help them advance in their careers: 帮助他们在事业上取得进步

¹⁷⁶ 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”

¹⁷⁷ performing the same job at the same level of experience: 在相同的工作和经验水平上

¹⁷⁸ have a higher level of pay: 有更高的工资水平

¹⁷⁹ Age does not automatically guarantee more pay: 年龄并不能必然的保证更高的工资

Topic 13 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 plots¹⁸⁰. 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 entertaining¹⁸¹ is good for them.

2. How has technology changed storytelling?

Well, I believe technology has really opened up the possibilities for storytelling¹⁸². Animation is a great example. In the past, animation looked very plain¹⁸³ and wasn't very impressive. But now, thanks to all the new software that's out there¹⁸⁴, 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 moviegoers¹⁸⁵.

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 them¹⁸⁶. So they tell stories that are just fun and entertaining. Sometimes, they even use silly voices to make the kids laugh¹⁸⁷. 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

¹⁸⁰ complicated plots: 复杂的情节

¹⁸¹ light and entertaining: 轻松有趣

¹⁸² opened up the possibilities for storytelling: 为讲故事（的方式方法）打开了更多可能性

¹⁸³ looked very plain: 看起来很平淡；看起来很一般

¹⁸⁴ thanks to all the new software that's out there: 多亏了那些新软件

¹⁸⁵ moviegoers: 影迷；常看电影的人

¹⁸⁶ too dark or adult for them: 对他们来说太黑暗或太成人化了

¹⁸⁷ 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 put¹⁸⁸, children like stories because they're entertaining. When you listen to a really good story, you get totally wrapped up in it¹⁸⁹. 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 sense¹⁹⁰. 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 time¹⁹¹ 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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¹⁸⁸ Simply put: 简单来说

¹⁸⁹ get totally wrapped up in it: 完全沉浸在其中

¹⁹⁰ learn about the world in a sense: 从某种意义上去了

解或认识这个世界

¹⁹¹ 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 14 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 there¹⁹². Or they make friends with the people who are naturally around them¹⁹³. 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 head¹⁹⁴, even when you're in an argument. They should also be reliable. You can count on them, no matter what¹⁹⁵. 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 interests or hobbies.

3. How do you maintain friendships?

Friendships can be very hard to maintain. Nowadays, people are so consumed with their work or studies¹⁹⁶, to the point that¹⁹⁷ they can start to neglect their personal relationships. But in order to maintain a friendship, both parties have to make each other a priority¹⁹⁸. 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

¹⁹² go from there: (从这里起步) 逐步发展 (关系)

¹⁹³ the people who are naturally around them: 身边的人

¹⁹⁴ keep a level head: 保持头脑冷静

¹⁹⁵ You can count on them, no matter what: 不管什么情况, 你都可以依靠他们

¹⁹⁶ 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

¹⁹⁷ to the point that: 以至于

¹⁹⁸ 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 setting¹⁹⁹. 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 difference²⁰⁰.

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 similarities²⁰¹, and they stay friends for a very long time because of those interests. However, as the saying goes, opposites attract²⁰²; 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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¹⁹⁹ 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友善

²⁰⁰ make a world of difference: 带来很大的不同；至关重要

²⁰¹ as a result of their similarities: 因为（由于）他们的相似之处

²⁰² as the saying goes, opposites attract: 正如俗话说，异性相吸

Topic 15 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 return²⁰³. 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 adults²⁰⁴, 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 down²⁰⁵ 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 degree²⁰⁶, parents should request that their kids listen to them. There may be some cases where the parents go too far with parenting²⁰⁷. Children could lose their confidence in making decisions bit by bit. They might second guess everything they've decided on their own. However, for the most part, parents should have authority over their kids²⁰⁸. 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 fields²⁰⁹. For example, you need to be a good communicator if you're trying to make transactions with people²¹⁰, 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-skills²¹¹. 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

²⁰³ how they want to be treated in return: 希望他人如何回报对待自己

²⁰⁴ as informed as adults: 像成年人那样见多识广

²⁰⁵ you can't talk children down: 你无法说服孩子

²⁰⁶ to a degree: 在一定程度上

²⁰⁷ parents go too far with parenting: 父母在教育孩子方面做得太过火了

²⁰⁸ have authority over their kids: 在孩子面前有权威; 能管得住孩子

²⁰⁹ customer-oriented fields: 以客户为导向的领域

²¹⁰ make transactions with people: 与人进行交易; 和人做买卖

²¹¹ have good people-skills: 有良好的人际沟通能力

5. How can you 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 way²¹². This technique can be helpful, but sometimes it can be a hindrance²¹³. 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 vent²¹⁴.

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 of²¹⁵ their personality and what they're interested in. They're also exposed to more options²¹⁶. 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 6²¹⁷, 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 resentful²¹⁸. It might end up affecting the relationship, or even cause a falling out²¹⁹. 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 parenting²²⁰ can cause children to be afraid of expressing their views. You know, some parents are harsh with²²¹ their children and often criticize them whenever they speak. Children growing up in those families can be very reluctant to²²² express themselves.

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²¹² 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

²¹³ a hindrance: 一个阻碍

²¹⁴ just want to vent: 只想说出来; 只想口头发泄一下

²¹⁵ have a better sense of: 能更好的感觉到...; 更能感觉到...

²¹⁶ exposed to more options: 有更多的选择

²¹⁷ by about age 6: 大约在 6 岁时

²¹⁸ resentful: 令人气愤的

²¹⁹ falling out: 吵架; 争吵

²²⁰ strict parenting: 严格的家教

²²¹ are harsh with: 对...严厉

²²² be very reluctant to: 非常不愿意去...

Topic 16 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 learners²²³, so photos can help them remember a concept. But others retain information better when²²⁴ 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 times²²⁵.

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 genetics²²⁶. Some people are already predisposed to²²⁷ 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 function²²⁸ 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 them²²⁹. 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 memory²³⁰. Sometimes that's genetic, but sometimes it's because that person has made special efforts to improve their memory.

见下页

²²³ visual learners: 视觉型学习者

²²⁴ retain information better when: 当...的时候, 能更好的记住信息

²²⁵ depend on reading it a lot of times: 靠把它读很多遍

²²⁶ 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

²²⁷ are already predisposed to: 天生就已经有...

²²⁸ improve your brain function: 改善你的大脑功能

²²⁹ they matter to them: 它们对他们来说很重要

²³⁰ 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 age²³¹. 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 that says that²³² 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 memory²³³ 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 memories²³⁴. 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 memorabilia²³⁵. As people grow older, they save things from important occasions like graduations and weddings. Even though the object itself might lose value over time²³⁶, the memories that it holds are priceless²³⁷.

见下页

²³¹ stay young as we age: 随着年龄的增长保持年轻

²³² I read an article somewhere that says that: 我在哪儿读到过一篇文章说...

²³³ have better short-term memory: 有更好的短期记忆

²³⁴ hanging onto things that are associated with certain

memories: 留住与某些特定记忆有联系的东西

²³⁵ memorabilia: 纪念品

²³⁶ over time: 随着时间的推移

²³⁷ 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 it²³⁸. You can take pictures and videos of a moment instead of only preserving it in your mind²³⁹. Then, later on, you can look back at those pictures and videos to fully remember the occasion²⁴⁰.

8. How can you forget a bad memory?

You can forget a negative memory²⁴¹ 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 shoulder²⁴². 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 instead²⁴³. For example, if the painful memory happened at your school, think of a good memory from school instead.

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²³⁸ has a camera built into it: 有一个内置的摄像头

²³⁹ preserving it in your mind: 保存在你的脑海里

²⁴⁰ fully remember the occasion: 充分记住当时的情景

²⁴¹ a negative memory: 负面的记忆; 消极的记忆

²⁴² cry on their shoulder: 靠在他们的肩膀上哭泣

²⁴³ think of some good memories instead: 反而去想一些美好的回忆

Topic 17 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 life²⁴⁴. 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 doing²⁴⁵. You can also use social media to promote a small business or connect with like-minded people²⁴⁶ 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 spans²⁴⁷, so they like software that lets them scroll through lots of posts very quickly²⁴⁸. 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 one²⁴⁹, 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 post²⁵⁰. 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-checking²⁵¹. 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 them²⁵². For example, there were tons of rumors on the internet that have proved to be false during the pandemic²⁵³. But you can count on²⁵⁴ the reports on TV and in newspapers.

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²⁴⁴ post updates from their life: 发一些生活中的新鲜事

²⁴⁵ keep track of what they're doing: 了解他们在做什么; 跟踪他们的动态

²⁴⁶ like-minded people: 志趣相投的人; 想法一样的人

²⁴⁷ have shorter attention spans: 有很短的注意力持续时间; 注意力持续时间很短

²⁴⁸ scroll through lots of posts very quickly: 快速刷很多帖子

²⁴⁹ For one: 一则; 一方面来说

²⁵⁰ going from post to post: 喜欢不停的看帖子

²⁵¹ 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

²⁵² 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

²⁵³ pandemic: 疫情

²⁵⁴ count on: 靠得住; 依靠

Topic 18 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 it²⁵⁵. 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 on²⁵⁶ music competitions. Combining those two enjoyable elements definitely makes for fun television. Plus, sometimes the next household name²⁵⁷ 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 context²⁵⁸ to fully appreciate traditional music. Besides, most of the classic songs are elegant and slow-tempo²⁵⁹, 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 concerts²⁶⁰ 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 leg²⁶¹. Sometimes you either can't guarantee that you'll get a ticket, or you have to overpay for resale tickets²⁶² because they are often sold out quickly.

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²⁵⁵ root for people who really shine at it: 为真正擅长它 (唱歌) 的人加油

²⁵⁶ get hooked on: 对...上瘾

²⁵⁷ household name: 家喻户晓的人

²⁵⁸ 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

²⁵⁹ slow-tempo: 慢节奏的

²⁶⁰ A huge draw of live concerts: 现场音乐会的一大吸引力

²⁶¹ costs you an arm and a leg: 花你一大笔钱

²⁶² overpay for resale tickets: 花更多的钱买黄牛票

Topic 19 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 brain²⁶³.

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 by²⁶⁴ talking with people in their own language. Learning foreign languages helps you learn about cultures and expand your worldview²⁶⁵. Another benefit to learning a language is that it helps keep your mind sharp²⁶⁶. Studies have shown that²⁶⁷ doing activities like learning a language can help improve your memory. In addition, being bilingual or trilingual definitely gives you an edge²⁶⁸ 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, whereas²⁶⁹ 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 other²⁷⁰ 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 language²⁷¹. 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 case²⁷² 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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²⁶³ 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

²⁶⁴ 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

²⁶⁵ expand your worldview: 扩展你的世界观；扩大眼界

²⁶⁶ keep your mind sharp: 使你思维清晰敏锐

²⁶⁷ 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~

²⁶⁸ gives you an edge: 给你带来一个优势

²⁶⁹ whereas: 然而

²⁷⁰ quiz each other: 互相考对方

²⁷¹ 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

²⁷² in which case: 在这种情况下

Topic 20 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 that²⁷³ we can't live without technology as long as we don't decide to live an off-grid life²⁷⁴. 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-produced²⁷⁵ in factories or sweatshops²⁷⁶, you don't see the same attention to detail²⁷⁷ 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 shame²⁷⁸, 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 handy²⁷⁹ 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 gadget²⁸⁰, such as a toy, an ornament²⁸¹ or a photo frame. They would rather have anything bigger and more valuable repaired by professionals.

见下页

²⁷³ There is no doubt that: 毫无疑问的是.....

²⁷⁴ 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

²⁷⁵ mass-produced: 大量生产的, 大批生产的

²⁷⁶ sweatshops: 完全靠大量人力生产的工厂

²⁷⁷ attention to detail: 注重细节

²⁷⁸ It's a shame: 很遗憾

²⁷⁹ naturally very handy: 天生手巧; 天生善于修东西

²⁸⁰ glue together a broken gadget: 粘一粘坏掉的小东西

²⁸¹ 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 cake²⁸², let alone²⁸³ 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 specialists²⁸⁴ 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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²⁸² isn't a piece of cake: 不是一件容易的事

²⁸³ let alone: 更不必说

²⁸⁴ trained specialists: 训练有素的专业人士

Topic 21 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 house²⁸⁵. 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 challenges²⁸⁶. 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 them²⁸⁷. 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 values²⁸⁸.

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

I suppose that older people usually need help adjusting to changes in modern society²⁸⁹. For example, as technology advances, older people might need assistance navigating new software²⁹⁰. They might struggle to work their phones²⁹¹ 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 stuff²⁹². 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 screwdriver²⁹³ or do other household tasks.

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²⁸⁵ do chores around the house: 做些家务

²⁸⁶ help them handle some challenges: 帮助他们处理一些有挑战性的事情

²⁸⁷ do most of the work of raising them: 承担抚养孩子的大部分工作

²⁸⁸ well-rounded people with good values: 全面发展, 有良好价值观的人

²⁸⁹ adjusting to changes in modern society: 适应现代社会的变化

²⁹⁰ 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

²⁹¹ struggle to work their phones: 使用手机很困难

²⁹² the offline stuff: 线下的东西; 互联网之外的东西

²⁹³ screwdriver: 螺丝刀

Topic 22 想要的公寓或房子

1. What kinds of apartments are the most popular?

I suppose that condos²⁹⁴ 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 amenities²⁹⁵. 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 areas²⁹⁶. 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 towards²⁹⁷ 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 families²⁹⁸. They are in buildings, either high-rise or low-rise. And most people in cities live in apartments. Given the population of our country²⁹⁹, 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 life³⁰⁰. But it's more cost-effective³⁰¹ to buy a house. Even though you have to make pretty hefty mortgage payments³⁰², 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 up³⁰³, most people just don't have enough money to buy.

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²⁹⁴ condos: 独立产权公寓

²⁹⁵ 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)

²⁹⁶ common areas: 公用区域

²⁹⁷ be drawn towards: 被吸引

²⁹⁸ house multiple families: 给很多家庭提供住房

²⁹⁹ Given the population of our country: 考虑到我们国家

的人口

³⁰⁰ starting out in life: 开始(一段)新的生活

³⁰¹ cost-effective: 性价比高; 划算的

³⁰² make pretty hefty mortgage payments: 支付巨额的房贷

³⁰³ As the cost of housing goes up: 随着房价的上涨

Topic 23 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 security³⁰⁴. Toys make children feel at home, so when they have to leave to go grocery-shopping or run other errands with their parents³⁰⁵, it helps to have a toy with them. Toys also keep children entertained. Children love playing with toys when they're out and about³⁰⁶. 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 things³⁰⁷. They might have really good memories associated with an object, which makes it tough to throw it away. For example, someone may hold onto something³⁰⁸ 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 memories³⁰⁹.

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 pressure³¹⁰ to be like others around them. They can become very competitive, so they always want to have the latest gadget³¹¹ or the newest clothes. Children also get bored of things more quickly than adults, because a lot of children have short attention spans³¹². 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 website³¹³, 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 income³¹⁴ to spend on new stuff.

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³⁰⁴ 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

³⁰⁵ 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

³⁰⁶ 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”

³⁰⁷ 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

³⁰⁸ hold onto something: 一直留着一些东西

³⁰⁹ lots of items hold treasured memories: 许多物品都珍藏着珍贵的回忆

³¹⁰ peer pressure: 同辈压力；同龄人的压力

³¹¹ the latest gadget: 最新的小玩意

³¹² have short attention spans: 有很短的注意力持续时间；注意力持续时间很短

³¹³ track your purchases on their website: 在他们的网站上跟踪你的购物记录

³¹⁴ 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 shopping³¹⁵. 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 influencers³¹⁶. 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 that³¹⁷ 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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³¹⁵ due to the rise of online shopping: 由于网购的兴起;
由于网购的流行

³¹⁶ work with social media influencers: 和社媒大 V (网

红) 合作

³¹⁷ it's true that: 确实是...

Topic 24 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 government³¹⁸. 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 future³¹⁹. As such³²⁰, 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 issue³²¹. 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 poverty³²². Often the people who cannot access higher education are from impoverished³²³ families, and it becomes a cycle of poverty³²⁴ 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 customers³²⁵, a discount code³²⁶ 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 trials³²⁷, it means you can try out more of the company's products without paying money. Besides, some companies like giving out free coupons³²⁸ 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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³¹⁸ be sponsored by the government: 由政府来财政支持

³¹⁹ costs them a brighter future: 让他们失去了一个更光明的未来

³²⁰ As such: 同样的

³²¹ money should not be an issue: 钱不应该是被争论的问题

³²² get out of poverty: 脱贫

³²³ impoverished: 贫穷的

³²⁴ it becomes a cycle of poverty: 一个贫穷的（恶性）循环

³²⁵ is sent out to their regular customers: 送给老客户

³²⁶ a discount code: 折扣码

³²⁷ trials: 免费试用

³²⁸ giving out free coupons: 发放免费优惠券

Topic 25 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 around³²⁹ 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 socializing³³⁰. 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 anything³³¹. Nowadays, dolls are super customizable³³² 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 tastes³³³. 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 gadget³³⁴, 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 toy³³⁵.

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³²⁹ run around: 到处跑

³³⁰ are predisposed to socializing: 更倾向于社交

³³¹ 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）

³³² customizable: 可定制的

³³³ suited to their tastes: 符合他们的口味

³³⁴ the newest gadget: 最新的小玩意

³³⁵ 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 unisex³³⁶, meaning that either girls or boys would enjoy playing with them. But when it comes to toys that are specifically geared towards boys³³⁷, 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 gesture³³⁸, but it doesn't compare to³³⁹ 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 materialistic³⁴⁰. So that should be monitored and restrained to some extent³⁴¹.

8. How do advertisements influence children?

Advertisements can appeal to kids really effectively. By using bright colours and interesting visuals³⁴², 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 to³⁴³ advertisements very easily since they're so young and impressionable³⁴⁴.

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³³⁶ unisex: 男女皆宜的; 不分男女的

³³⁷ specifically geared towards boys: 专门为男孩设计的

³³⁸ always a nice gesture: 总是很好的举动

³³⁹ but it doesn't compare to: 但是和...没法比

³⁴⁰ materialistic: 太注重金钱的, 物质至上的

³⁴¹ be monitored and restrained to some extent: 在某种程度上受到监控和限制

³⁴² visuals: 视觉效果

³⁴³ fall prey to: 成为...的牺牲品/受害者

³⁴⁴ impressionable: 易受影响的