



Test1

Part 1

1. What job would you like to have ten years from now? [Why?]

I don't have a clear mind of what kind of jobs I'll have in the future, but I'm sure it's computer science related. Because that's my major and I enjoy learning these stuff. Also, people nowadays almost can't work without computers, so I believe I'll have many job opportunities in this area.

2. How useful will English be for your future? [Why/Why not?]

I think good English skills will be a must when it comes to my future career. My major is computer science and most computer languages are based on English so I have to master this language at least in writing and reading.

3. How much travelling do you hope to do in the future? [Why/Why not?]

As much as possible, so to speak. There are lots of destinations on my list and actually I want to travel all over the world. Every time I went traveling, I literally felt like entering into a new world, a world with new people, new dressing style and new lifestyle. I love this feeling.

4. How do you think your life will change in the future? [Why/Why not?]

Maybe the core of my life would change, I suppose. I mean now I'm a student and studying is my



top priority, but in the near future I have to find a job and walk into the work force. My life will be totally different when changing my role from a student to an office worker.

## Part 2

Describe a book that you enjoyed reading because you had to think a lot.

You should say:

what this book was

why you decided to read it

what reading this book made you think about

and explain why you enjoyed reading this book.

I'd like to talk about the book *The Road Less Traveled*. It is, in short, a description of the features that make for a fulfilled human being, based largely on the author's experiences as a psychiatrist and a person.

I read this book several years ago, because I heard a phrase called "delaying gratification", which means the process by which pain is chosen to be experienced before pleasure. For example, children will rather finish their homework first, so that they can play later on. But I was the boy who played first without finishing homework. So I got totally attracted by this book, which the phrase "delaying gratification" is derived from.



This book begins with the statement "Life is difficult". The author argues that life is never meant to be easy, and is essentially a series of problems which can either be solved or ignored. And actually this made me think a lot, because sometimes I chose to ignore problems I encountered in life. Anyway, the author defines discipline as the basic set of tools required to solve life's problems.

I enjoyed reading this book so much, because I did learn a lot from it. I learned that most people, like me, avoid the pain of dealing with their problems and actually it is through facing the pain of problem solving that life becomes more meaningful.

### Part 3

1. What are the most popular types of children's books in your country?

I guess it should be comics. These books have more pictures or illustrations than words, which make it easier for children to read, to understand. Additionally, the plot is usually much more appealing. Take my little nephew for example, whenever I visit his home, I would see him reading comics and he reads so fast. I believe he can quickly gain the information from pictures, which means he can easily get entertained from reading comics.

2. What are the benefits of parents reading books to their children?

The most obvious benefit I can think of is building a strong bond between parents and their



children through reading books together. I mean, when parents read books to their children, they are going through the story or knowledge together. So they may have the same feeling to story, and they may be happy or upset together. This way, children and parents will have more topics to discuss, and thus, they can be good friends.

3. Should parents always let children choose the books they read?

I don't think so, and the matter is "always". Children are called children because they are not mature enough, not only their bodies but also their minds. Sometimes they cannot tell right from wrong. So here comes the problem, there can be violence in some books and it will be really dangerous if children imitate these things. So I believe parents should respect what their children choose to read, but also supervise what they read.

4. How popular are electronic books in your country?

Oh, these books are quite popular, because e-books can be read on many different types of devices, like computers, tablets, mobile phones, and Kindles. It's so convenient. And people can also put a variety of books into their one specific device, which makes it so easy to carry. For example, when I take a bus or subway, I usually see people reading books on their phones or Kindles. And I read e-books too, when I commute.

5. What are the advantages of reading electronic books (compared to printed books)?

Well, obviously, there are many advantages of reading electronic books, and the first one should



be money saving. We can find that electronic editions are usually cheaper than printed ones. So for an avid reader, buying e-books and reading them on a device are more affordable. Additionally, reading e-books makes it easier for people to read anywhere anytime. I mean, people can use their mobile phones to read instead of carrying a heavy printed book all the time, which is a bit cumbersome.

6. Will electronic books ever completely replace printed books in the future?

Maybe not, because in spite of the great things e-books accomplish — convenience, portability, multimedia — there are still some fundamental qualities they will simply never possess. For example, paper books have physical beauty. E-books are great for people who care only about the contents, but for people who truly love books, printed books are the only medium that will satisfy.

## Test 2

### Part 1

1. Which social media websites do you use?

I mainly use Wechat, and actually it's a social media app. Most of my families and friends use this app too, so we can get connected no matter where we are. And there is also a function in this app called Moments, where I can see their updates like funny news they repost and useful information



they share.

2. How much time do you spend on social media sites? [Why/Why not?]

Well, I don't know exactly. Maybe three or four hours every day I guess. Whenever I have free time I would check whether there are new messages or updates on the social media websites. I just want myself to be informed. I mean, I hope to know what's happening in this world.

3. What kind of information about yourself have you put on social media? [Why/Why not?]

Mainly it's information about my trips. I love traveling and when I arrive at a new place, I will definitely share the pictures of this spot with descriptions or comments followed. Sometimes I also post my selfies with my cats, because they are so cute and maybe I just want to make others jealous.

4. Is there anything you don't like about social media? [Why?]

I have to say yes, although I use it quite often. Sometimes I fake my lifestyle on social media even without being aware of it myself. For example, I don't like doing sports, but when I go jogging or mountain climbing, I'll share a message on social media to tell others that I'm leading a healthy lifestyle.

Part 2



Describe something you liked very much which you bought for your home.

You should say:

what you bought

when and where you bought it

why you chose this particular thing

and explain why you liked it so much.

I'd like to talk about the floor lamp I bought from IKEA last year. Actually it was a surprise gift for my wife, for her reading area. She is an avid reader and loves to read books in the couch after dinner. But the lighting there was not so good before the lamp installed.

Anyway, I was looking at lamps in IKEA to find a suitable lamp that would lean over our couch and when I found this lamp, I was so happy because I knew it was the ideal lamp.

I was stunned with the appearance of the lamp. It has a gorgeous neutral linen cylindrical lamp shade and a black marble base, and it cost less than five hundred Yuan. My wife thought I had spent way more than that for this lamp.

We both love this lamp so much, not only because the appearance of the lamp is charming, but also because it shines a reasonable amount of light. There is a built-in variable touch dimmer, which means I can turn off, turn on, and dim the lamp with only a light touch of my finger. And as



the light can be dimmed, we are able to choose lighting suitable for every occasion.

### Part 3

#### 1. Why do some people buy lots of things for their home?

Partly because some basic needs I suppose. For example, people buy a TV for living room, a bed for bedroom, because they need watch TV programs after dinner for relaxation and sleep on a comfortable bed for a good rest. In addition, some things are for decoration purpose, like paintings and flowers. People are willing to make their homes cozy, so after a hectic day, they can finally enjoy their life at home.

#### 2. Do you think it is very expensive to make a home look nice?

I don't think so. I believe making a home look nice is a matter of its being neat and tidy rather than using expensive stuff. I mean, the room won't look nice when it's in a mess even if you put lots of luxury goods in it. But you'll definitely feel relaxed and delighted if the furniture and decorations in the room are in good order.

#### 3. Why don't some people care about how their home looks?

I believe different people care about different things in their life, so it's acceptable that there are people who don't care about how their home looks. Maybe it's because a home for them is just a place to sleep, to rest. And they don't even invite friends to their home. So there is no need for



them to decorate it or keep it nice and tidy.

4. In what ways is living in a flat/ apartment better than living in a house?

The location I suppose. I mean, if you don't have a car then the location of your property could be crucial. If you are starting a new job or need to be in the city center, then an apartment is likely to suit you better than a house. It's much easier for an apartment complex to afford to be in a desirable city location, whereas houses are much more expensive to build for a single homeowner.

5. Do you think homes will look different in the future?

I don't think so. When thinking about what houses might look like in 50 to 100 years, it's hard to imagine that they'd be totally unrecognizable to us. It's fun to speculate some of the more unusual, futuristic home styles, but most of them aren't going to become the norm. I believe we'll still have kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms and bathrooms. We'll still sit on sofas, eat at tables and sleep on mattress.

6. Do you agree that the kinds of homes people prefer change as they get older?

Yes, I agree. While children and teenagers prefer their home or room colorful and lively, like putting lots decorations on the wall, as adults we may prefer a simply or a sophisticated home style. My own preferences, for example, have changed over the years – I would never have thought about living in a room without toys when I was a kid.



Test 3

Part 1

1. How often do you see your neighbors? [Why/Why not?]

Not very often, like three or four times a week. We both have pet dogs, and when I walk my dog downstairs, I may meet her walking her dog as well, so we would exchange some words but not many. She is a bit old and around her seventies I think. She lives alone and that's all I know about her.

2. Do you invite your neighbors to your home? [Why/Why not?]

No. I rent an apartment here in Beijing and I'm so busy with my work. I don't have time to socialize with my neighbors and I don't even know their names. Also, I have no interest in my neighbors. I mean we have nothing in common. So I never invite my neighbors to my home.

3. Do you think you are a good neighbor? [Why/Why not?]

Well, I don't know. Maybe not. I mean, I don't even talk to my neighbors, so they may think I'm a bit indifferent towards them, even selfish who only cares about his own things. But I may as well be considered as a good neighbor, because I don't trouble them. For example, I keep my TV volume down at night.



4. Has a neighbor ever helped you? [Why/Why not?]

Yes, but it was a long time ago when I was a primary school student. I lived in my hometown with my parents back then and that day after school I got home only finding that I left my key in the school. Luckily, my neighbor, a grandma, invited me to her home and even treated me with chocolate cookies. I was so grateful to her help.

Part 2

Describe a very difficult task that you succeeded in doing as part of your work or studies.

You should say:

what task you did

why this task was very difficult

how you worked on this task

and explain how you felt when you had successfully completed this task.

I'd like to talk about the presentation about a historical event I prepared and delivered when I was in high school. I did this task with the other three members and the topic we got was simple, which was to introduce the famous Terra-Cotta Warriors to the rest of the class.

But what made this task so difficult was that our teacher warned us that we should not use the Internet too much and that we should write with our own words. She did not want us to recite



anything, but rather explain what we had learned with simple words.

So we had nowhere to go but the library of our school. And we divided the work into four different parts and each of us went there to find out information about the tomb. Luckily we successfully completed the task, the presentation. During the presentation, my classmates explained the Emperor's fear of death, and how large the site might be, as most of the statues are still buried everywhere. I concentrated on the design and the way the soldiers are lined up like on a battle field.

I felt relieved right after we finished the presentation. I knew we did a good job from my teacher and our classmates' response. Also I learned how to cooperate and communicate during the process. Anyway, I felt so happy when we had successfully completed the task.

### Part 3

1. What are the most difficult jobs that people do?

I think jobs like policemen, doctors and lawyers are really difficult to do. I mean, professional skills are required when doing these jobs. And these skills can't be gained at school. People need not only knowledge but also practical experience in order to be qualified for these jobs.

2. Why do you think some people choose to do difficult jobs?



Maybe it's a matter of interest or life goals. I mean, when people choose a career, they care more about whether this job is going to fulfill their dream or potential, rather than how easy it is to do the job. Also, I feel that people have different definitions of difficult jobs. I mean, for me I think it would be really hard to be a teacher because I'm not a patient guy but others may think it's easy.

3. Do you agree or disagree that all jobs are difficult sometimes?

Yes, I agree. There are no completely easy jobs and all jobs can be difficult sometimes. For example, people may think being a bus driver is an easy job, because the route of a bus is usually fixed. But we may not know it's really hard to get a bus driver's license. And driving all day long is harmful to the driver's waist. It may even cause some serious illness.

4. How important is it for everyone to have a goal in their personal life?

I believe it's vital to have a goal in people's personal life, mainly because it makes their life more meaningful. Life without goals will suffer from a lack of motivation. A goal can be being a successful businessman, and it also can be traveling with your family every year. All of these goals make you feel motivated in your everyday life.

5. Is it always necessary to work hard in order to achieve career success?

I don't think so. Career success should not be the only success in people's life. Not everyone can achieve so called career success. So it's alright to work hard but always working hard in order to achieve career success will somewhat make you feel stressed and exhausted. Instead, I believe



work-life balance makes a successful life.

6. Do you think that successful people are always happy people?

I don't think so. Success doesn't mean happiness. Also, people have different definitions on success and happiness. Some people think money, which is usually associated with successful people, can buy happiness but others don't think so. Also, everyone has a skeleton in the closet. When we assume someone is successful, he may be suffering from difficult things.

#### Test 4

#### Part 1

1. Do you like the neighborhood you live in? [Why/Why not?]

Yes, I love it. The neighborhood I live in now almost satisfies all my basic needs, like a supermarket downstairs, where I can buy fresh vegetables, fruits and other various goods. Also, it's quite safe to live there. Things like burglary or robbery never happened in my neighborhood.

2. What do you do in your neighborhood in your free time? [Why/Why not?]

I usually go for a walk after dinner with my wife in a small park of our neighborhood. The park is just behind our apartment so it's quite convenient. It's about a five-minute walk to get there. We usually share interesting things happened in the day time while walking and it's relaxing.



3. What new things would you like to have in your neighborhood? [Why/Why not?]

I've always wanted a basketball court built in my neighborhood because I love playing basketball and I have to drive to a university if I want to play basketball after work or on weekends. So if there is a basketball court, I will be on the top of the world.

4. Would you like to live in another neighborhood in your town or city? [Why/Why not?]

No, I wouldn't. Although my neighborhood is not a perfect place to live in, I've got used to it. I know every single aspect of my neighborhood, like where to walk my dog, when to catch the earliest bus to go downtown, and which store to get fresher vegetables. So that's why I wouldn't like to live in another neighborhood.

## Part 2

Describe a website you have bought something from.

You should say:

what the website is

what you bought from this website

how satisfied you were with what you bought

and explain what you liked and disliked about using this website.



I'd like to talk about Taobao, which is China's largest online shopping platform. Almost everyone who shops online uses this website. I bought so many things from Taobao, like my laptop, my iPad and lots of groceries. I love Taobao so much.

Generally speaking, I am satisfied with what I bought from it, because most of them were in good quality and authentic. But I have to be really careful when shopping on Taobao in order to avoid counterfeit or bad quality products. Last time, I purchased a German fountain pen on Taobao, but when I used it, I found the pen can't ensure smooth and consistent writing. So I had to claim a refund.

Anyway, I like this website so much, because it makes my life much easier. I mean, I don't need to go outside or spend a whole afternoon shopping. All I need to do is to browse the website and find my preferred item. In addition, I can get my refund without any conditions in seven days after receiving the product. So I feel safe when I shop on Taobao.

Of course there is still room for improvement. For example, sometimes I need to wait for my package for almost a week. This would bring inconvenience. Like, if my bathroom lamp is broken, I need a bulb immediately. In that case, ordering a bulb on Taobao won't be a good idea.

Part 3



1. What kinds of things do people in your country often buy from online shops?

Electronic devices, like smartphones and tablets. Because these things are not easy to fake, and buying them online helps you save money. Think about it, you actually buy the same thing but with a lower price, and your gadget bought from the internet has a twelve month warranty as well. So people are willing to buy them online.

2. Why has online shopping become so popular in many countries?

I guess online shopping meets people's various needs, for example, convenience. I mean, where else can you comfortably shop at midnight while in your pajamas? There are no lines to wait in and you can do your shopping in minutes. Online shops give us the opportunity to shop all the time.

3. What are some possible disadvantages of buying things from online shops?

Shipping problems and delays. Even the biggest and best shipping companies and online retailers have their bad days, so there's no way to ensure that you'll get your hands on your purchase in time unless you pick it up from a physical store. Items get lost, detoured, damaged, or delivered to the wrong address more often than you can imagine.

4. Do you agree that the prices of all goods should be lower on internet shopping sites than in shops?

I don't agree. People believe the prices are lower online because there is no rental. That's true but



there are also other fees like shipping fees adding to the cost. So we may find some of the prices online are even higher. For example, your bathroom lamp is broken, and you need a bulb to replace the broken one. But ordering a bulb online won't save you money because of the shipping fee.

5. Will large shopping malls continue to be popular, despite the growth of internet shopping?

Yes, I believe they will continue to be popular, because shopping malls can provide some features that online shops can never do, for example, socializing. Shopping with friends or family is an important activity people do in their daily life. When shopping with others, they can catch up on each other's news and thus strengthen their bond.

6. Do you think that some businesses (e.g. banks and travel agents) will only operate online in the future?

Yes, I think so. Even nowadays there are some businesses only operate online, like e-books. We can hardly find a physical store that sells e-books. So in the future, I believe there will be more businesses only operate online, because almost everyone use the Internet, even senior citizens, and if there is no need to make the deal in a store, why don't put all of them online?