

SAMPLE ANSWERS FOR SPEAKING & WRITING

TEST 1 SPEAKING

Part 1

Books

1. Do you read books? What kind of books do you read?

Absolutely yes. You may say that I'm kind of a **bookworm** since I spend most of my spare time reading. Well, an **avid reader** like me tends to fall in love with any **page-turner**. But to be honest, I'm still a big fan of 2 **genres**, which are fantasy books like Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings and classic romance books like Pride and Prejudice. Those **works of art** really give me a chance to **step away** from daily stuff and promote my **emotional intelligence**.

- bookworm /'bʊk.wɜ:m/: một sách
- avid reader: người say mê đọc sách
- page-turner: sách hay, thú vị, đáng đọc
- genre /'ʒɑ:n.rə/: thể loại
- work of art: tác phẩm nghệ thuật
- step away: thoát khỏi
- emotional intelligence (EQ) /ɪ,məʊ.ʃən.əl ɪn'tel.ə.dʒəns/: trí tuệ cảm xúc

2. Did you read books when you were a child?

I **took up** reading a long time ago, I couldn't even remember the exact time. At that time, I **was really engrossed myself in** my books. Moreover, my parents considered reading a good habit to be encouraged, so they, **without hesitation**, bought me lots of comic books and Vietnamese novels. Unfortunately, the **hectic** schedule at present limits my time for this hobby, so I don't read as much as I did in the past.

- take (sth) up: bắt đầu thích cái gì
- be engrossed in/with sth /ɪn'grɒst/: chìm đắm vào
- without hesitation /,wɪθ.ə'teɪ.ʃən/: không do dự
- hectic (adj) /'hek.tɪk/ : vô cùng bận rộn

3. Do children love reading nowadays?

I think that children do like reading and always have, but nowadays there are many other attractions competing for children's attention, like TV and video games. The success of book series like Harry Potter proves that reading is alive and well amongst young people.

4. Would you give a book as a gift?

Sure! If it's a book that I've read too, and my loved one now has a chance to read, this gives us an opportunity to actually deepen our relationship by discussing whatever it is we've now both read. I love talking about books with my friends and family, whether it's fiction or nonfiction.

5. Do you read more for pleasure or for study?

Well, I used to take reading as **merely** a hobby until I grow older. I currently have to carry out a huge amount of reading **as part of** my studying. Therefore, I probably spend more time on academic books, articles, or textbooks. However, I still try to **make time for** my favorite books after a hard day's work to **put my feet up**.

- merely = only: chỉ
- as part of: như là một phần của
- make time for: dành thời gian cho
- put my feet up: thư giãn

Hobbies

1. Do you have any hobbies? / 2. What are some of your hobbies?

Of course yes, **tons of** them. I like to read a lot, sing a lot, watch a lot of movies and I also like to design and edit videos. I think this list keeps growing because I always find other things to try from time to time.

- tons of = a lot of

3. What do you usually do in your spare time?

Well, to be quite honest, I'm not the one who has much spare time, you know, because of all the studying and over-time jobs, but if I do, I'll stick to one of my hobbies, which is reading, singing, watching movies, or designing and editing videos, or sometimes I've just got a sudden idea to go shopping, I never know. Ah, I've been writing blogs for a while – a good way to release your thoughts and feelings, you know.

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

Without a doubt, I prefer to stay in a circle of good friends where I would get to learn new things and make myself aware of the current situation rather than staying alone and thinking about some awful things.

5. What do you usually do on weekends?

I usually spend my weekends doing mostly outdoorsy things like enjoying swimming (on summer days), fishing, and gardening. I enjoy these outdoor activities mainly because I spend too much time indoors at my work.

6. What do you usually do when you go out?

I mostly like to watch movies with my friends and hang out with them in coffee shops. I also like to engage myself in various activities like playing badminton, swimming, and so on. Often, when I am alone, I like to go to nearby parks and enjoy playing with kids.

7. What do you usually do with your friends?

I enjoy playing outdoor games, watching movies in a theatre, having conversations related to recent political and international issues, sharing my updates and concerns, and going on long drives with my friends. The best part is the open conversation we can have related to almost any topic.

Part 2 & Part 3

Describe one of your family members you spend the most time with

You should say:

- Who this person is?
- When are you usually together?
- What do you do together?

And explain why you spend most time with this member of your family?

I come from a nuclear family that comprises my father, mother, an older brother and me. Out of all these people, I spend a majority of my time with my father. He is a understanding and caring person. We have a lot in common and have spent a large amount of time talking and sharing with each other.

With time, he became my best friend. I can rely on him and trust him blindly. We share our interests with each other, for examples coffee stories, old past memories or even my career plans, and good or bad experiences that I've been through in my life. Not just that, I also share my love lives with my boyfriend. Sometimes we fight like cats and dogs, basically due to the gap generation between the young and the old. But to be honest, he is a good listener. Because he is older than me ages so each word he says that sounds extremely logical and intellectual.

When not outside, we are usually together the entire day. We watch shows on TV and prepare meals together. Whenever I don't feel good, he is always there to encourage me and treat me good food to wipe out my sadness. He is very skilled at making dishes with chicken. And the fact that I often feel better after enjoying meals with him.

You know, I still remember correctly that he used to stay up all night long to take care of me at the time I got bad fever. He knew that I hate eating porridge so he

prepared hot fish soup for me instead. I would say that he is a very important person to me and in my lifetime.

Follow-up questions:

➤ **What do you think about the role of the elderly in family ?**

Since they are older, they play significant roles in the family which include nurturing young ones by imparting in them good morals, provision of education in order to provide them skills for attaining work and other situations. For example, I live with my grandparents from my mother side, I often hear many old past stories about war, ancient lives and many more topics from my grandpa. I have to say those stories are attractive and deliver good messages.

➤ **Do you prefer receiving support from friends or family members ? Why ?**

I think it depends on the kind of advice that you need. Parents and grandparents probably have more life experience than a friend, and so you might get a wiser answer from them. On the other hand, friends are the one who suit to share about personal topics. Let's take myself as an example, I prefer to confess financial problems and loving issues to my friends and share my life troubles with my family such as whether I should have a part time job or not.

➤ **What are the drawbacks when living with the older generation ?**

There are some drawbacks which is unavoidable when having older people living together. They usually have a great deal of health problems and mental illnesses but these diseases can seldom be cured. In addition, older people would never completely recover from them once they suffer at such old age and that necessitate a special care and attention from family members. Moreover, they sometimes have the feelings of loneliness and isolation.

WRITING

Apart from a lot of advantages, some people believe that the Internet creates many problems. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

In spite of its benefits, some people argued that the Internet has produced many problematic issues for societies. **In my perspective**, I strongly agree with this argument because of the **addiction to the internet** and inaccurate information.

First of all, there is a high feeling of need in using the internet in individuals that caused by the overuse of it. It means that many people nowadays cannot separate themselves from the Internet every second. For example, some individuals always share their moments every minute on their **social media platforms**. As a result, this causes the urgency in **surfing the Internet**. Hence, these overwhelming features of the Internet make individuals feel addicted.

Another problem is that many people cannot differentiate between a fact or a **hoax**. On the internet, there is a myriad of news portals some of which have questionable reputations regarding the accuracy of their news. Unfortunately, lots of our communities cannot analyze the information they received whether it is true or not, but they still share it on the public internet platform. Moreover, some news is published on the **internet portals** to accommodate particular interests. Therefore, many people have **lost their integrity** because they get some false information on the Internet.

In summary, although the Internet offers some benefits, I strongly believe that the Internet creates troublesome matters due to the necessity of using it and the emergence of false information.

- in my perspective = in my opinion: theo quan điểm, ý kiến của tôi
- to be addicted to something: bị nghiện cái gì đó
- social media platform: nền tảng truyền thông mạng xã hội
- surf the internet: lướt web, lướt internet
- hoax = joke: trò chơi khăm, trò lừa gạt
- internet portal: cổng thông tin điện tử
- lost their integrity: đánh mất sự công bằng, ngay thẳng