



C1 Advanced Speaking, Part 3 & Part 4 Questions

17 Part 3 and 4 Questions
5 with Sample Answers

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The [C1 Advanced speaking test](#) for Cambridge is in 4 parts. Here are some C1 Speaking Questions for C1 speaking Part 3 and C1 speaking Part 4. For a list of sample answers for C1 Speaking Parts 3 and 4, [go here](#)

 <p>C1 Advanced Speaking Part 3 Quiz</p> <p>CLICK TO TRY!</p> <p><i>How much do you know?</i></p>	 <p>C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4 Quiz</p> <p>CLICK TO TRY!</p> <p><i>Do you know it all?</i></p>
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Part 1 C1 speaking topics consist of general questions about yourself, your life and your opinions. This takes about 2 minutes, and you will probably be asked 3 or 4 questions.

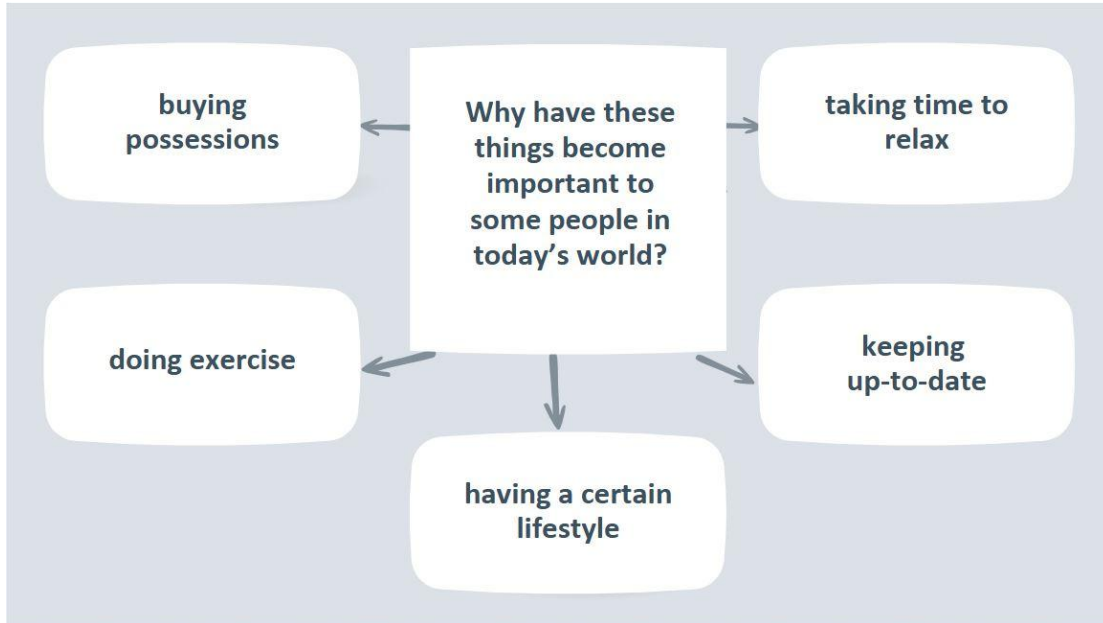
In [C1 Speaking Part 2](#), you need to choose two pictures from a choice of three, then describe, compare and contrast these two pictures and answer two questions. You are only allowed 1 minute to do this, so some practice is essential. [Sample answers are here.](#)

[Part 3](#) is in two parts. The first part is a discussion between you and the other candidate(s) using the topics on a given diagram. It is important in this part to interact with the other candidates well and not speak more than you should. The target language for this part is mainly agreeing, disagreeing, giving your opinion and asking for opinions. You have 2 minutes. The second part is 1 minute for the candidates to come to an agreement which of the options is the best or most important.

[Part 4](#) is general questions which cover the same topic as Part3, but in more depth. You are also expected to agree or disagree with the answers the other candidate(s) give and give your opinion. This part lasts a total of 4 minutes. In these answers, you should sound organised and give examples if you want. Try to talk about people in general rather than yourself, so it is more formal.

Question 1

Part 3



Part 4

Answer these questions:

- Do you think that people have the right priorities in life nowadays? Why/Why not?
- Some people say that certain jobs are overvalued and overpaid. What's your opinion?
- What part does the media play in people's expectations of life nowadays?
- Do you think that people's expectations of what is achievable are too high nowadays? Why/Why not?
- Do you think that life is easier now than it was in our grandparents' day? Why/Why not?
- Some people say that it's only possible to be happy if you have a lot of money. What's your opinion?

High Scoring Sample Answers

These are high-scoring sample answers for the above Cambridge C1 Advanced Speaking Parts 3 and 4. Read them to understand what you need to talk about and the kind of answers you need to give for a good C1 Advanced speaking score.

Sample Answer Discussion

There are two minutes to discuss how each part influences the central question.

A/ I think as far as buying possessions is concerned, I think many people think it's important because it gives them an aura of being successful and of being better than other people, wouldn't you agree?

B/ I completely understand what you mean. I don't particularly agree with them, but I agree with you. Yes. And I would also say that something similar is having a certain lifestyle. If you live a certain lifestyle, go on expensive holidays, have an expensive house and so on, it doesn't matter if you can afford it or not. But having that lifestyle is incredibly important to give off the aura of that success, don't you think?

A/ Yes, I do. And I think what's also important as well, what is truly important is keeping up to date these days. Because the rate of change of several aspects of life is incredible. You have political change, climate change. You have all the changes in technologies and computers and so on. You continually have to learn how to update your software and so on. So, I think that's essential in this day and age, wouldn't you say?

B/ Yes, I think we see eye to eye on that one. And I think that's why taking time to relax is so important, because there's all these changes going on. And so, it's not just changes in the outside lives, it's not just changes politically, but it's also changes, you know, and these can affect your job. So, it makes people's lives unstable in some ways. And so relaxing is a great way of taking away some of that stress, to be quite honest with you.

Sample Answer - Reaching a Decision

There is one minute for the candidates to reach a decision about which activity needs the most concentration.

B/ I would say that the most important would be doing exercise, the one we didn't mention before, because doing exercise is good for both your physical health and your mental health. And so that would help you cope much better with all the stresses that these things bring, whether it's keeping up with the Joneses or keeping up with life. What would you say to that?

A/ I see what you mean, but I don't really agree. Personally, I would say taking time to relax is the one for me. It would be the most important be for similar reasons to you, basically. But people just need to stop. They need to take a breath, they need to slow down. They need to spend some valuable time with their family so that they can have a good perspective on things.

B/ Well, yes, I see your point. You're absolutely right.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4

One candidate is asked a Part 4 question, then the other one is asked to give a shorter opinion on it too.

Questions

Do you think that people have the right priorities in life nowadays? Why/Why not?

Some people say that certain jobs are overvalued and overpaid. What's your opinion?

What part does the media play in people's expectations of life nowadays?

Do you think that people's expectations of what is achievable are too high nowadays? Why/Why not?

Do you think that life is easier now than it was in our grandparents' day? Why/Why not?

Some people say that it's only possible to be happy if you have a lot of money. What's your opinion?

Sample Answers

Question - Do you think that people have the right priorities in life nowadays? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - Personally, I think people are moving towards having the right priorities these days. I think we're just leaving. We're just finishing with an era where you needed to have the biggest and the best and the newest and the nicest house, the fastest car and so on. I think especially after the pandemic, people are realising that health is definitely more important. I also think that people are realising, as youngsters who have been taught about this at school are getting older, the public is

really becoming more aware of green issues such as pollution, global warming, deforestation, the extinction crisis and so on. And so, I think these are a priority.

Question - Some people say that certain jobs are overvalued and overpaid. What's your opinion?

Sample answer - A large part of me wants to say that people who have such opinions must think they are undervalued and underpaid. As for me, I think that society has come to the decision that these jobs are worth more in monetary and other terms. In other words, the rules we live by mean that such jobs exist and only by society changing, will things change in general. If that ever happens, there will still be those who strive for the best pay or status, regardless of the jobs they must do.

Question - What part does the media play in people's expectations of life nowadays?

Sample answer - In this respect, I think media content is like a carrot being dangled in front of a donkey. They show their audiences what is possible and how the special few can achieve it if they strive for it enough. Also, they show how those down on their luck have fallen from grace and have maybe even ended up bankrupt and living in a tiny cold flat after their family has deserted them due to some problem or another. The vast majority, therefore, do not expect to amass a fortune, but that's fine as long as they do not end up poor.

Question - Do you think that people's expectations of what is achievable are too high nowadays? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - For many younger people they are, yes. They see Instagram influencers who are younger than them making heaps of money by doing something that anyone could do. They see footballers making a fortune by playing their favourite game and from what I understand, as a result many feel entitled to at least some kind of luxury in their lives. For those whose expectations don't match their circumstances, it means it is easy for them to turn to crime to achieve their dreams.

Question - Do you think that life is easier now than it was in our grandparents' day? Why/Why not?

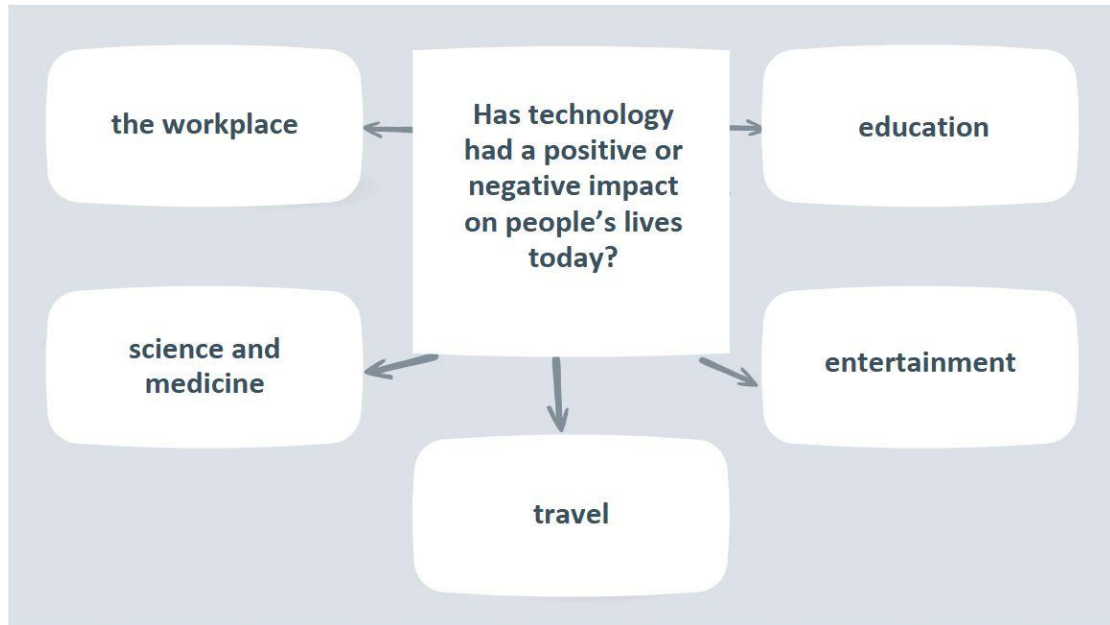
Sample answer - I'm not really sure, I haven't really talked to my grandparents about this, but I suppose it must be. If things were worse than at that time, it would be in the newspapers every day and the government would be forced to call for an election. I think people my grandparent's age, actually most people when you think about it, tend to think that things were always better when they were younger.

Question - Some people say that it's only possible to be happy if you have a lot of money. What's your opinion?

Sample answer - I would hasten to disagree with this, to be honest. I would say that some rich people are happy, and others aren't. The same could be said of any income group, regardless of their situation. In my opinion, acceptance is a big part of being happy. I don't mean you need to accept unfair practices and so on, but if you accept the partner you have, your children's bad habits, your parent's foibles, then it makes for a much happier life than if you fight against them continuously. Being aware of your own failings, personally and financially, also makes it easier.

Question 2

Part 3



Part 4

Answer these questions:

- **What do you think is the most positive aspect of technology? Why?**
- **Some people dislike using technology. Why do you think this is?**
- **Do you think that life is generally easier now than it was in the past? Why/Why not?**
- **Some people say that computers are the biggest time-saving device in modern life. What do you think?**
- **The popularity of mobile phones means that people are always contactable. Is this a good thing?**
- **What effect do you think social networking sites have had on relationships?**

These are high-scoring sample answers for the following Cambridge C1 Advanced Speaking Parts 3 and 4. Read them to understand what you need to talk about and the kind of answers you need to give for a good C1 Advanced speaking score.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 3

Sample Answer - Discussion+ Decision

There are two minutes to discuss how each part influences the central question.

A/ I would say technology has a variable impact on most of these places, most of these aspects, and it's similar in the workplace. I think technology has helped people help people, helped companies do things quick, faster, do things more efficiently and so on. But technology has also, to some extent, put some people out of a job. So that's not really a positive impact, is it?

B/ No, I quite agree with you. And I think in some ways it's the same with education. Technology has made it easier for teachers to present things, to present their classes in a fun and interesting way, so that the students will take in the information quickly. But the students also have huge distractions from computer games and their mobile phones, etcetera, when they're supposed to be doing their homework. So I guess it's a bit of a double-edged sword, wouldn't you say?

A/ I would say so. And I would say as far as science and medicine is concerned, I would say it's overwhelmingly positive. I think the advances that have been made in both science and medicine have been extraordinary in the last few decades, and I think that this is one of the reasons why life expectancy has increased substantially.

Sample Answer - Reaching a Decision

B/ As you just said. There's no doubt in my mind whatsoever that science and medicine has had the most positive effect on lives today. I think in the aspect of science, science is at the root, the fundamental root of technology, and so undoubtedly has had a positive impact on both the economy of the whole world well, the global economy, and nearly every aspect of everyone's lives. What would you say to that?

A/ I couldn't agree more, to be quite honest with you. I think you mentioned science. It's the same with medicine. The machines they can use, the technology that they can use, not only in hospitals, but also to develop new medicines and so on. If you look at how quickly the vaccine for the pandemic was developed, it's really quite outstanding. So, yes, I totally agree.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4

One candidate is asked a Part 4 question, then the other one is asked to give a shorter opinion on it too.

What do you think is the most positive aspect of technology? Why?

Some people dislike using technology. Why do you think this is?

Do you think that life is generally easier now than it was in the past? Why/Why not?

Some people say that computers are the biggest time-saving device in modern life. What do you think?

The popularity of mobile phones means that people are always contactable. Is this a good thing?

What effect do you think social networking sites have had on relationships?

Sample Answers

Question - What do you think is the most positive aspect of technology? Why?

Sample answer - I believe that it's being able to use technology to give ourselves a better life on this planet. I think we are past the industrial revolution. We've moved through the hugely transitional stage from steam powered engines to renewable power. And so, I think this should keep going and we should use technology to make the world a cleaner, greener place that's safer for everyone's, children and a safe place for people, animals and eat every kind of plant to live.

Question - Some people dislike using technology. Why do you think this is?

Sample answer - There could be various reasons for that. Some may think that tech is developing so quickly, their lives never seem to say the same. For some this is a delight, but for others it can be very unsettling or maybe even disturbing. Another group of people who may not be enamored with tech are those who favour going back to nature. Although tech could help these people with their dreams of rustic self-sufficiency by using data, many of them would prefer to live almost as 'survivors' and live off the land.

Question - Do you think that life is generally easier now than it was in the past? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - From my perspective, and I believe many from my generation would agree with me, life much more complex these days. In the not-too-distant past, there were no mobile phones and no personal computers. OK, that may have made some things harder, but it was really easy to get away from it all. People weren't always 'on-call' and if they went out for a walk, for example, nobody could get in touch with them. Nowadays, however, people are even contacted by their bosses when they are supposed to have finished work. So no, I don't think it's easier at all.

Question - Some people say that computers are the biggest time-saving device in modern life. What do you think?

Sample answer - I would say that the use of computers is so widespread these days that only older people will think they save time. For many, they cause more problems than they solve and because technology is improving so quickly, users need to constantly learn how to use the latest updates and new software. The biggest time-saver in my opinion would be the burgeoning AI. It will save more creators time, and rewrite many of the rule books for work. Things are going to change.

Question - The popularity of mobile phones means that people are always contactable. Is this a good thing?

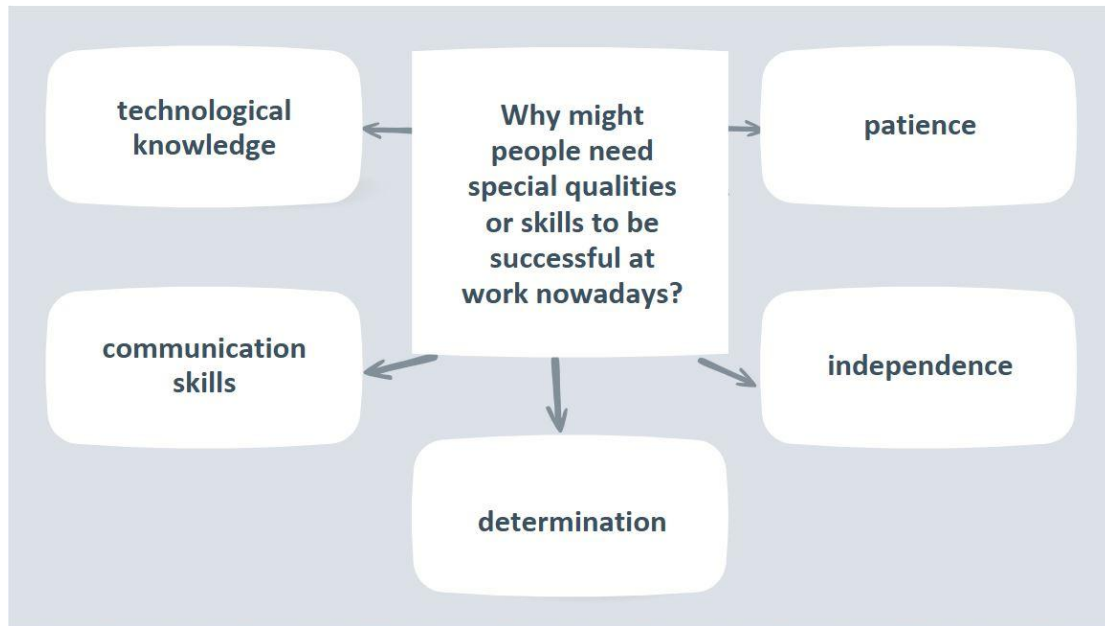
Sample answer - For those who have grown up with them, I think being out of touch is horrific. For those of older generations, though, they find not being able to 'go dark' to be a pain. So as time goes on, I reckon that always being contactable will just be a fact of life. My problem with this in some ways, is for many, that means lying about your circumstances or environment because of the constant pressure to be seen as happy, stable and interesting which can be exhausting.

Question - What effect do you think social networking sites have had on relationships?

Sample answer - As far as I see it, there are both positive and negative effects. As far as the positive ones are concerned, I would say that it's easy to stay in touch with people you maybe haven't seen in a long time. That could mean school friends, who have moved on or family who live abroad. Negative ones, however, would include cyber-bullying and friends or relatives embellishing their lives to make others jealous. I think if you keep things in perspective then these sites are really useful. If only there weren't so many of them.

Question 3

Part 3



Part 4

Answer these questions:

- Which is more important in any job: qualifications, personality or practical experience?
- What type of jobs should be most highly-valued and paid? Why?
- Do you think it's better to do one job all your life or change jobs frequently? Why?
- Should there be a compulsory retirement age or should people be allowed to work as long as they like? Why/Why not?
- Do you think that people can be taught to be good leaders in the workplace? Why/Why not?
- Some people say that it doesn't matter what job you do - the most important thing is to enjoy doing it. What do you think?

These are high-scoring sample answers for the following Cambridge C1 Advanced Speaking Parts 3 and 4. Read them to understand what you need to talk about and the kind of answers you need to give for a good C1 Advanced speaking score.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 3

Sample Answer - Discussion

There is two minutes to discuss how each part influences the central question.

A/ In this day and age, I think technological knowledge is absolutely essential. The rate of change of technology, the rate technology is advancing, is quite incredible, to be quite honest with you. And so, there needs to be the people in the workplace that understand what's going on, and in each company, there should be somebody who knows how things work, who to contact if they don't know how to fix it, and so on. What do you think about that?

B/ I couldn't agree more, to be quite honest with you. I think it's the same in some respect to communication skills. You know, there're so many new ways to communicate these days, not just face to face, but, you know, video calls. There's chat, messaging, there's all sorts of apps like Facebook Messenger, Telegram, Weixin and so on. There's also Skype and Zoom, not to mention the way people communicate over social media. What do you think about that?

A/ I completely see your point. I think to some extent, one of the reasons that people need a quality, like patience, is because of all these different aspects of technology and of communication, because these, you know, things are wonderful when they work correctly, but if somebody does something wrong or presses the wrong button by accident, then things can go completely haywire. And so a bit of patience is absolutely essential. Wouldn't you say?

B/ Yes, I would.

Sample Answer - Reaching a Decision

There is one minute for the candidates to reach a decision about which activity needs the most concentration.

B/ As far as I'm concerned, the most important thing is communication skills. The way I see it is, if people can communicate what they mean clearly and concisely,

then it doesn't matter which problem or issue they are trying to solve, some kind of solution will be reached. What would you say to that?

A/ I completely agree with you. I think determination, patience and independence are excellent skills to have, but if you can't express what you mean, then they are meaningless. As for technological knowledge, it's just changing all the time.

B/ I couldn't agree more.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4

One candidate is asked a Part 4 question, then the other one is asked to give a shorter opinion on it too.

Questions

Which is more important in any job: qualifications, personality or practical experience?

What type of jobs should be most highly-valued and paid? Why?

Do you think it's better to do one job all your life or change jobs frequently? Why?

Should there be a compulsory retirement age or should people be allowed to work as long as they like? Why/Why not?

Do you think that people can be taught to be good leaders in the workplace? Why/Why not?

Some people say that it doesn't matter what job you do – the most important thing is to enjoy doing it. What do you think?

Sample Answers

Question - Which is more important in any job: qualifications, personality or practical experience?

Sample answer - I am a firm believer that personality is the most important thing out of these three things. I think it doesn't matter how well qualified someone is or how much experience they have or if they have both. If they don't have the personality to drive forward and try and improve and get the job done, the job that needs done, when it needs done, then they're virtually useless in most jobs, in my opinion. I believe that, of course, people should have qualifications and experience. In some jobs, there is nothing better than experience. But having the personality to actually turn up and do the job that's expected.

Question - What type of jobs should be most highly-valued and paid? Why?

Sample answer - This is a tricky question to answer, in my opinion. I would like to say that teachers should be highly paid but imagine if they were like footballers and were transferred between schools or their pay dropped because they had a personal issue. Doctors, of course, are another profession, but if their pay is too high, then it becomes too expensive for the average person to be treated. Currently, there are many highly paid but unpopular jobs, such as CEOs or even financial market traders. I think if perceptions and pay changed, there will always be a certain type of people who will aim for the highest paid, regardless of if it is valued or not.

Question - Do you think it's better to do one job all your life or change jobs frequently? Why?

Sample answer - Personally speaking, I think people should try the various jobs they would like to have before settling down to one job for most of their lives. If someone had the same job from leaving school to retirement, they may regret it and their final years at work may be miserable. I am of the opinion that those who constantly seek to change their jobs just for a slightly higher salary or to get away from hated colleagues are deeply unhappy and should try to get to the root of their problems.

Question - Should there be a compulsory retirement age or should people be allowed to work as long as they like? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - If the birthrate remains relatively constant, then as far as I can see there would be no reason for people to work longer than need be. If, however, there were less workers entering the workforce, it may be essential for willing retirees to either keep working or return to work. If they did keep working, though, there would be a tendency for them to shun new working practices for the ones they are used to. This causes friction with younger work mates, so perhaps it could be an argument for them to only act in an advisory or even part-time role.

Question - Do you think that people can be taught to be good leaders in the workplace? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - As far as leadership is concerned, I am convinced that it is not just something that can be taught but comes from experience. Saying that, the workplace would be the ideal place to learn leadership, rather than at university or other tertiary education. Shadowing someone senior would teach them about how to persuade, suggest and deal with people as well as learning how to make important decisions. The problem from the company's perspective, though, would be to make sure such prospective leaders didn't leave for another company.

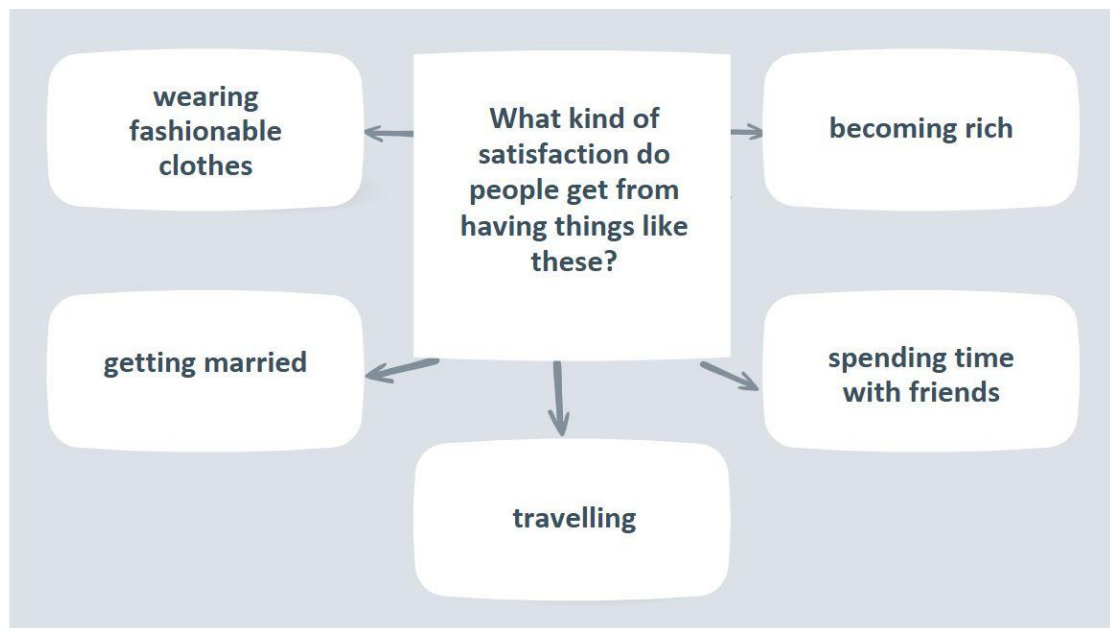
Question - Some people say that it doesn't matter what job you do – the most important thing is to enjoy doing it. What do you think?

Sample answer - It's a balance in my view. Some people could take this to extremes and love a job that doesn't pay enough to support their family. I don't think that is

uncommon, but I think the trick is to learn to enjoy what you have rather than constantly seek it out. For me, one of the most important aspects of a job is how long it takes me to commute. If that is restrictive, say an hour each-way, then I would actively look for something much closer to home, whether I enjoyed my job or not.

Question 4

Part 3



Part 4

Answer these questions:

- How important is it to follow trends in fashion? Why?
- Is it better to have a few close friends or a lot of acquaintances?
- Do you think that people's interests and priorities change as they get older? Why/Why not?
- Some people say that having a high status is not the most important thing. What's your opinion?
- Is it possible to be too rich? Why?/Why not?
- What kind of responsibilities do you think rich people have? Why?

These are high-scoring sample answers for the following Cambridge C1 Advanced Speaking Parts 3 and 4. Read them to understand what you need to talk about and the kind of answers you need to give for a good C1 Advanced speaking score.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 3

Sample Answer - Discussion + Decision

There are two minutes to discuss how each part influences the central question.

A/ I would say some people get a tremendous amount of satisfaction from travelling because they can see how different people do things, they can see the different cultures, and so it kind of shows them their place in the greater scheme of things rather than just the national scheme of things. What would you make of that?

B/ Yeah, I see your point, but on a deeper level, I think many people derive a lot of satisfaction from the stability of getting married and planning for the future, planning a family and settling down. Don't you agree?

A/ Absolutely. As for becoming rich, there are many people that derive immense amount of satisfaction of having more money than they had before, and some of them don't mind telling other people about it. Do we see eye to eye on that one?

B/ Yeah, I guess. But spending time with friends is very satisfying because you can help each other out if you're having difficulties. Maybe not necessarily difficulties, but maybe one of them can help you get a job or help your daughter with her homework, or the wives can be friends and do exercises together and so on, don't you think?

A/ Yes, I do. And as for wearing fashionable clothes, I think it's intense satisfaction for some people, showing how trendy and up to date they are and keeping up with fashion. For someone like me, that's not really an issue, though, unfortunately it used to be, though I would say people would get the most satisfaction out of getting married and planning the future. What would you say?

B/ I completely agree. I think it doesn't matter about spending time with friends. You can spend time with friends anywhere and everything and travelling, if you have that stability, then travelling is much easier because you go as a unit and have a base at home.

A/ Yes, absolutely. Wearing clothes is superficial and for many, becoming rich is superficial too. So I would completely agree that getting married gives them most satisfaction.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4

One candidate is asked a Part 4 question, then the other one is asked to give a shorter opinion on it too.

Questions

How important is it to follow trends in fashion? Why?

Is it better to have a few close friends or a lot of acquaintances?

Do you think that people's interests and priorities change as they get older? Why/Why not?

Some people say that having a high status is not the most important thing. What's your opinion?

Is it possible to be too rich? Why?/Why not?

What kind of responsibilities do you think rich people have? Why?

Sample Answers

Question - How important is it to follow trends in fashion? Why?

Sample answer - For somebody my age, I don't think it's important at all. Some people who are married think it's important, but personally, I don't. And I think that's because I think fashion has a lot to do with being popular, with maybe attracting other people and I don't really care if I'm attractive or not these days. However, when I was younger, especially when I left university, it was quite important to me, really. The people I hung out with were all quite fashionable and so to fit in as them, I had to be, to some extent, I'm an awkward shape.

Question - Is it better to have a few close friends or a lot of acquaintances?

Sample answer - As ever, I think balance is important. Someone can't really choose between a few friends at the expense of acquaintances or vice-versa. From where I

stand, having a reasonably sized circle of friends is particularly good for younger people who are probably more active and meet more people in similar situations. Keep close friends, though is equally, if not more important. For many such friends are closer than most of their family, so they give these people an outlet when they want to vent about their work or other issues. Despite saying that, I think a few close trusted friends give people strength, while too many acquaintances can be draining.

Question - Do you think that people's interests and priorities change as they get older? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - Of course they do. When people say this, most people think of going from being a teenager to an adult, through middle age and on to being elderly, however, it starts much earlier in pre-school. Starting from there, in my opinion people gradually find out what they enjoy and what is important to them. That is honed as they reach adulthood and is diluted as soon as they meet a partner and have children. Often when someone is divorced or when they retire, they return to what they enjoyed previously.

Question - Some people say that having a high status is not the most important thing. What's your opinion?

Sample answer - To be perfectly honest, I couldn't really care about status at all. In my opinion, it is vastly overrated, with highly thought of people being unveiled as con-men, philanderers or, even worse, preparators of sexual abuse. Having status, for some, makes these people feel they can do anything, and for many years, society was complicit in that. These days after a succession of scandals, however, that is changing for the better.

Question - Is it possible to be too rich? Why?/Why not?

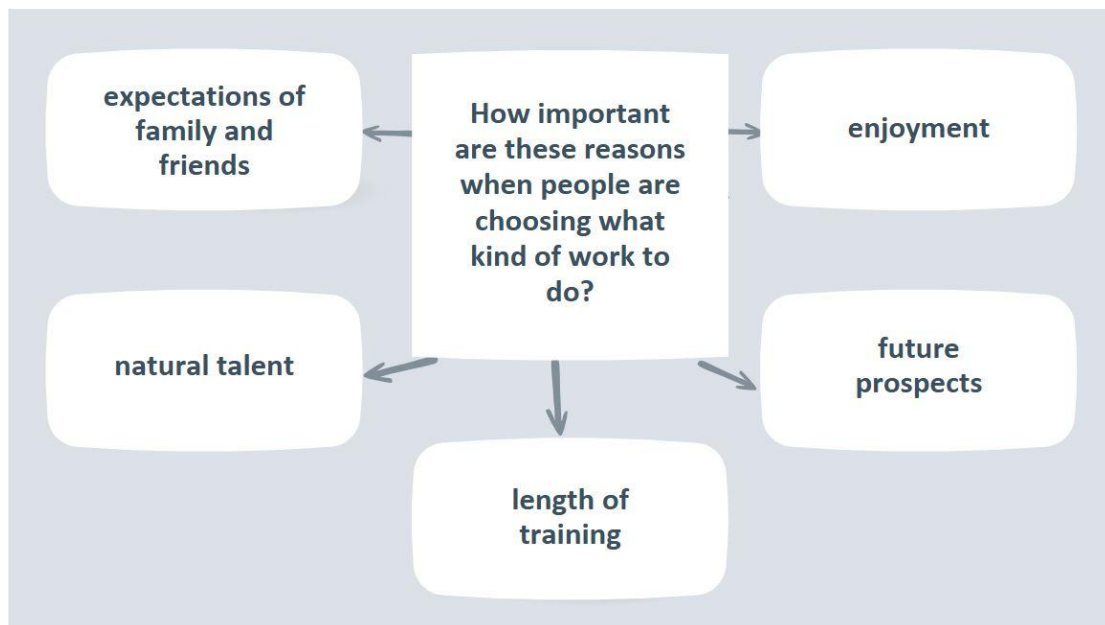
Sample answer - Not really, from what I can work out. If someone has a billion dollars and a mountain of old, it would be almost impossible for them to count it, never mind spend it. In that case, if they had twice as much, it would make no difference. There must be some kind of cut-off point where this happens, but where it is, I have no idea. I do support richer people paying more tax, though, but maybe that's because I am by no means a rich or wealthy person.

Question - What kind of responsibilities do you think rich people have? Why?

Sample answer - I think they have various responsibilities. Firstly, they should be responsible for those who have made them rich, whether that is the country or their employees and customers if they have a company. Secondly, they should take care of their family regardless of how they live. Not just paying them but being there if they need help. Finally, they should make sure to take some responsibility for the society that has made them wealthy, whether that is locally, regionally or nationally.

Question 5

Part 3



Part 4

Answer these questions:

- **What's the best way to find out what a job is really like?**
- **Do you think the media often gives a false impression of how glamorous some jobs are? Why/Why not?**
- **Do you think that some kinds of work are under-paid? Why/Why not?**
- **Some people say there's no point in getting a university qualification nowadays because it's better to get training while you work. Do you agree?**
- **How easy do you think it is to achieve a good work/life balance nowadays? Why?**
- **Is it a good thing to be ambitious? Why/Why not?**

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C1 Advanced Speaking Part 3

Sample Answer - Discussion

There are two minutes to discuss how each part influences the central question.

A/ Do you mind if I start?

B/ No, not all

A/ Well, for me by far the most important is enjoyment. If you are going to spend at least 40 hours a week at work, then you should try and like what you do. I think for many people, that is extremely difficult, but it really helps. What about you? Would you agree?

B/ Yes, I would, although with the proviso that there needs to be some kind of objective or goal. Future prospects mean you can grow your career and better yourself as time goes by. Having something to aim for is much more motivating, if you ask me.

A/ I see what you mean, of course, but I also feel that having a talent for what you do is preferable. It would make the whole experience less exhausting, if you ask me. It should also make it easier to progress. Do we see eye to eye on that?

B/ Sure we do. As for how someone's family and friends are concerned, though, in my mind it's not that important. I realise it is crucial in some cultures, though with the well-being of the family being the central issue.

A/ I completely agree with you. The length of training too is important, but from what I have heard, the quality is more important. What's the point of having a three-year certificate, if a year of hands-on experience is more useful.

Sample Answer - Reaching a Decision

There is one minute for the candidates to reach a decision about which activity needs the most concentration.

B/ As far as I'm concerned, enjoyment, talent and prospects are crucial aspects when deciding which job to do?

A/ Yes, and I would say enjoyment is the most important.

B/ Absolutely. The other two come a close second and third, but as for family and how long your training is, I think they should not be considered at all.

A/ Let's agree on that then, with the caveat that people from other cultures may come to a completely different decision.

C1 Advanced Speaking Part 4

One candidate is asked a Part 4 question, then the other one is asked to give a shorter opinion on it too.

Questions

What's the best way to find out what a job is really like?

Do you think the media often gives a false impression of how glamorous some jobs are? Why/Why not?

Do you think that some kinds of work are under-paid? Why/Why not?

Some people say there's no point in getting a university qualification nowadays because it's better to get training while you work. Do you agree?<

How easy do you think it is to achieve a good work/life balance nowadays? Why?

Is it a good thing to be ambitious? Why/Why not?

Sample Answers

Question - What's the best way to find out what a job is really like?

Sample answer - That's a difficult question for two main reasons. The first one is speaking to someone who works there, although the problem with that is you never know if they are telling the truth, or exaggerating how good or bad it is. For example, someone might not like their manager, so they want to give a bad impression of the company. The second is to actually do work experience at that workplace to find out if you fit in, get paid enough and even what the commute is like.</p>

Question - Do you think the media often gives a false impression of how glamorous some jobs are? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - Yes I do, and I'd like to give two examples. The music industry is often portrayed as being glamorous and who would disagree. However, if you talk to anyone working in that industry, they will tell you it means working extremely long hours, often overnight for very little pay. It seems to be wonderful for them if everything goes well, but very few are really successful. The other obvious one, I would say, is professional sports. Fans talk about how much pro footballers earn, for example, but they have worked extra hard to get to the top. Also, their careers are usually over by the time they are in their mid-thirties.

Question - Do you think that some kinds of work are under-paid? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - Definitely. The first one that springs to mind is teaching. In many countries teachers are revered, but on others they are not, with schools and education departments taking advantage of them. Many teachers think their work is fulfilling because they help and encourage students to reach their goals. However, the students rarely understand this and don't think about the hidden hours teachers work doing such things as lesson planning or marking. As a result, these undervalued teachers become disillusioned and leave, putting their skills to good use somewhere else, often in another country.

Question - Some people say there's no point in getting a university qualification nowadays because it's better to get training while you work. Do you agree?

Sample answer - As far as I'm concerned, it depends. A university education is essential for some professions, such as medics, law and accountancy. That is the minimum they need before they start further training. Going into these professions only with hands-on experience would be impossible, unless the goal was to be a poorly paid underling. Other courses, such as History of Art, or Gender Studies are often just proof that the student can apply themselves for three or four years. As for training in the workplace, I would say for many people it is invaluable and can turn a boring dead end job into a career. That training can be upgraded to a diploma or degree depending on how motivated the individual is.

Question - How easy do you think it is to achieve a good work/life balance nowadays? Why?

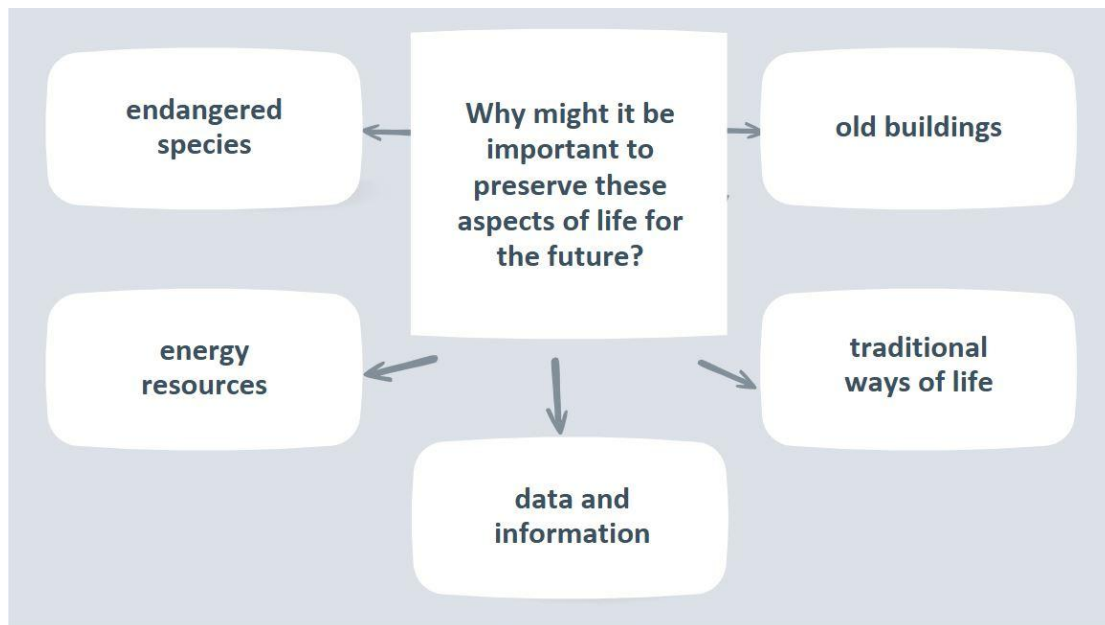
Sample answer - To be completely honest, I think achieving a satisfactory work life balance these days is a skill in itself, if not a job. With the rapid progress of technology, workers are at the beck and call of their bosses nearly every waking hour. This can have detrimental effects on their mental health and relationships. For example, a couple could be enjoying a night out to celebrate a birthday. A phone call from one of their bosses demanding a report on something for the next morning can ruin such evenings in less than a minute. The other issue about advancements in tech, are they make people feel inadequate if they don't have the latest model.

Question - Is it a good thing to be ambitious? Why/Why not?

Sample answer - Ambition is a double edged sword in my view. I would say it's a good thing when it drives you forward to achieve a goal, either in life or work. However, actually doing what you need to do to reach these objectives often means pushing others out of the way. For example, if a man has a burning ambition to succeed at his job, he could work every hour he could to achieve it. This could be at the sacrifice of his family and friends. As far as I know, it's not unusual for marriages to end in divorce because the wife can't stand doing all the family's work, while the husband is working constantly. They both have the best intentions, but they are often unsustainable. Of course, the children suffer the most from such situations.

The Following 12 Practice Questions have no sample answers

Part 3



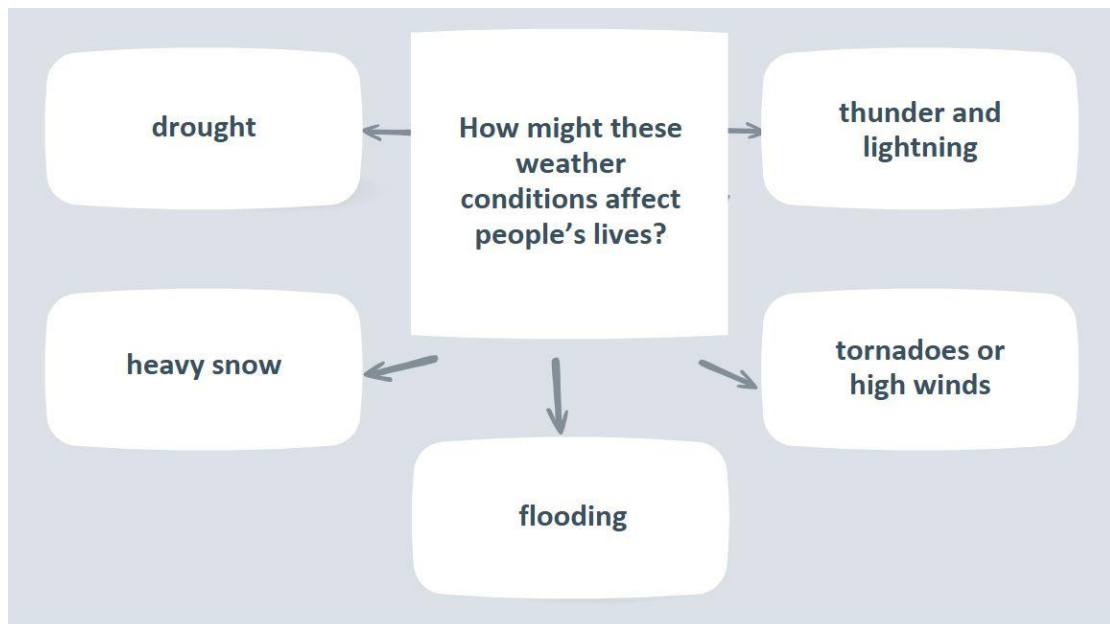
Part 4

Answer these questions:

- Do you think that individuals can do very much on their own to protect things like these? Why/Why not?
- Do you think that children should be taught about conservation at school? Why/Why not?
- Some people say that it's better to spend money on preserving what we've got than on inventing new things. What's your opinion?
- Many young people feel that traditions are old-fashioned and not relevant to them. Do you agree with that view? Why/Why not?
- Do you think governments should work together to protect the environment? Why/Why not?

- Do you agree that in order to prepare for the future, we have to understand the past? Why/Why not?
-

Part 3

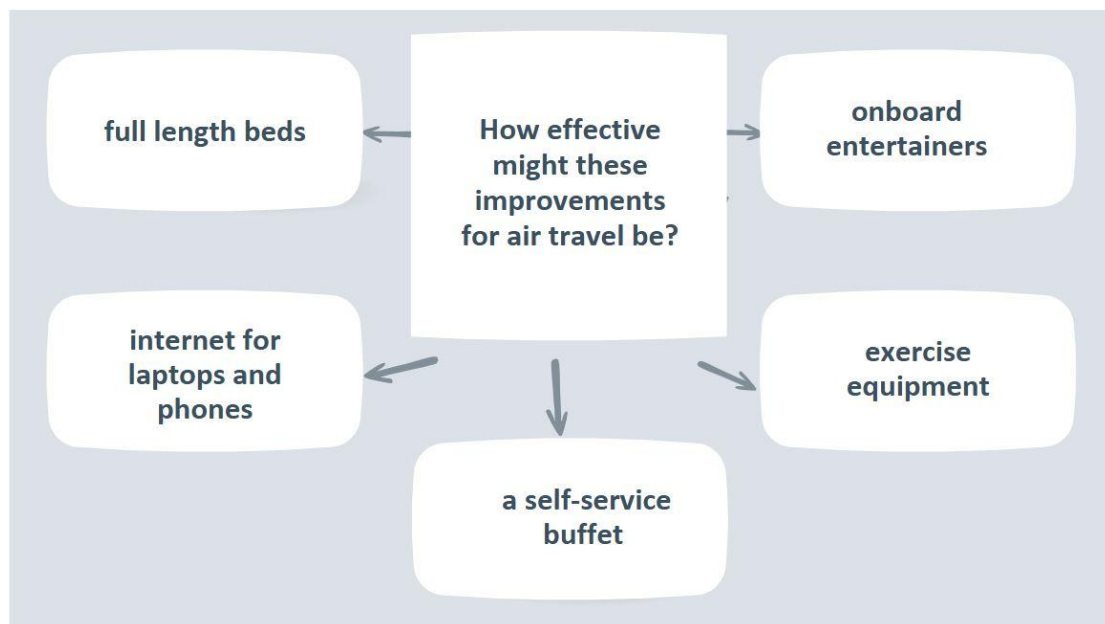


Page 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- What effect does a country's climate have on the personality of the people living there?
- What advantages or disadvantages are there in living in a country which has seasons?
- Some people's idea of happiness is a lazy summer's day. Why do you think this is?
- Why do people spend time sunbathing when they are told it is so bad for their health?
- Some people say more should be done to prevent global warming. What's your opinion?

Part 3

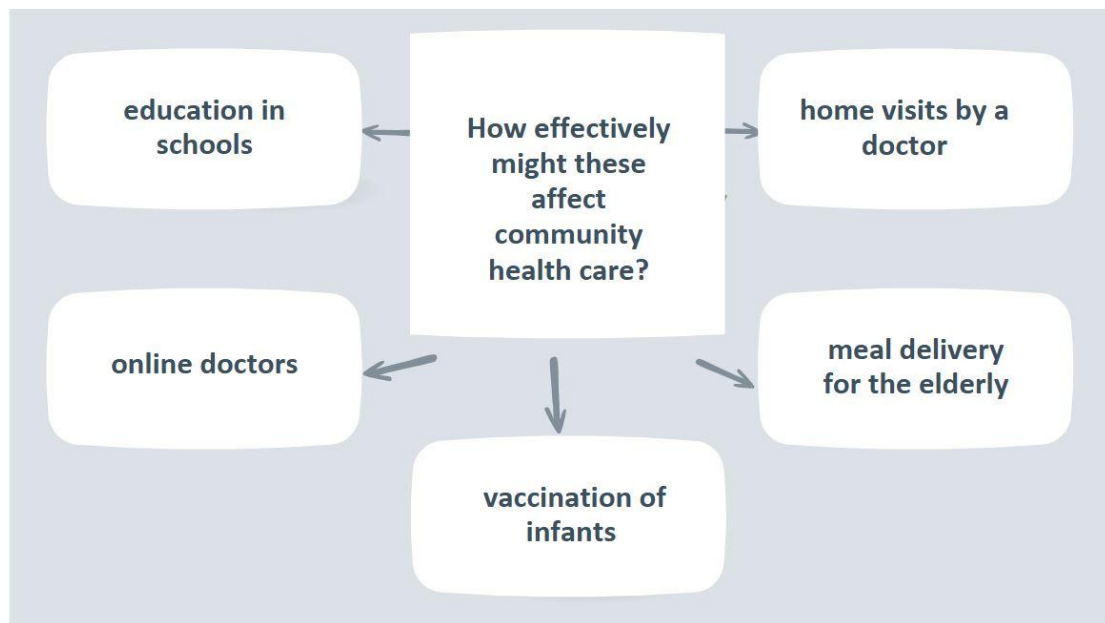


Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- Should people get to know their own countries before travelling abroad? (Why? / Why not?)
 - What do you think is the best age for young people to start travelling abroad? (Why?)
 - What problems do people have travelling around large cities?
 - Which kinds of transport do you think might disappear in the future?
 - Some people say there is nowhere left to explore on this planet. What's your opinion?
-

Part 3

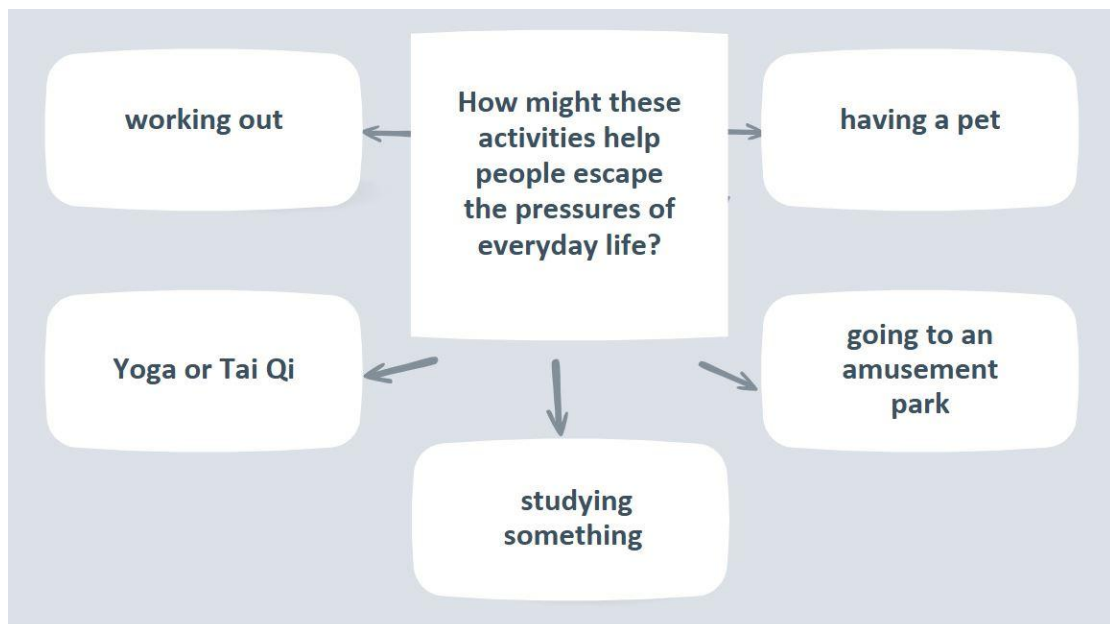


Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- Some people say we rely too much on medicines nowadays. What's your opinion?
- Should children's health education be the responsibility of parents or schools? (Why?)
- What can be done to make hospitals more friendly places for young children?
- What in your view are the qualities of a good doctor?
- Do you think our lifestyles will become more healthy or less healthy in the future? (Why?)

Part 3

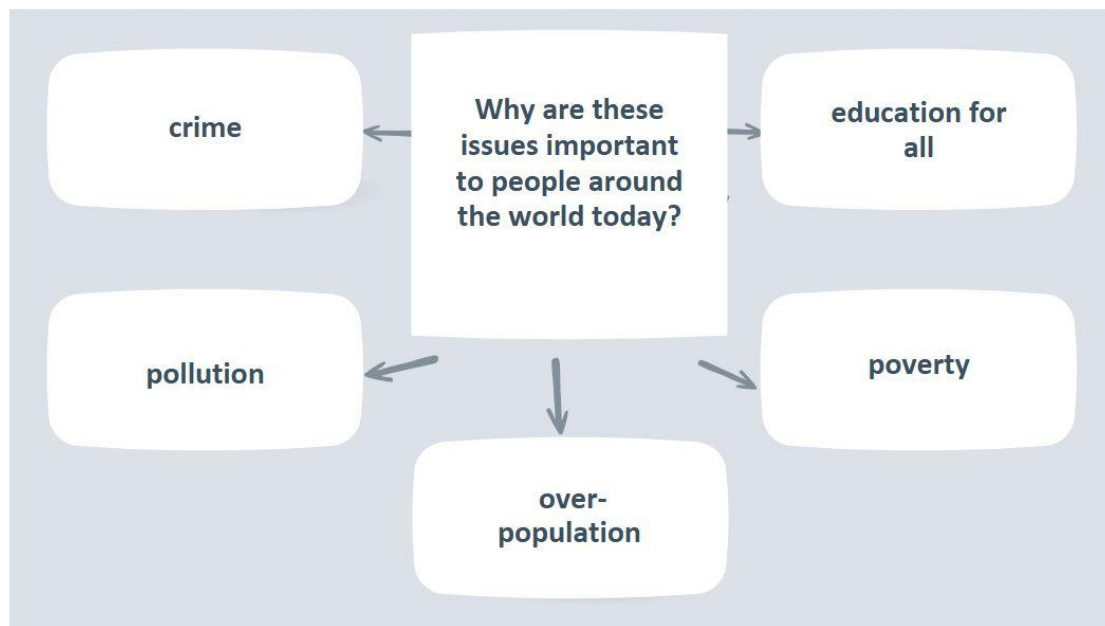


Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- What other things help people to relax after a busy day?
 - Do you think some people work better under pressure? (Why? /Why not?)
 - Nowadays, many people work from home. Do you think this is a good or a bad thing? (Why?)
 - Some people believe that any activity we do becomes boring after a while. What's your opinion?
 - Is it possible to be totally happy in life? (Why? / Why not?)
-

Part 3 C1 Advanced Speaking

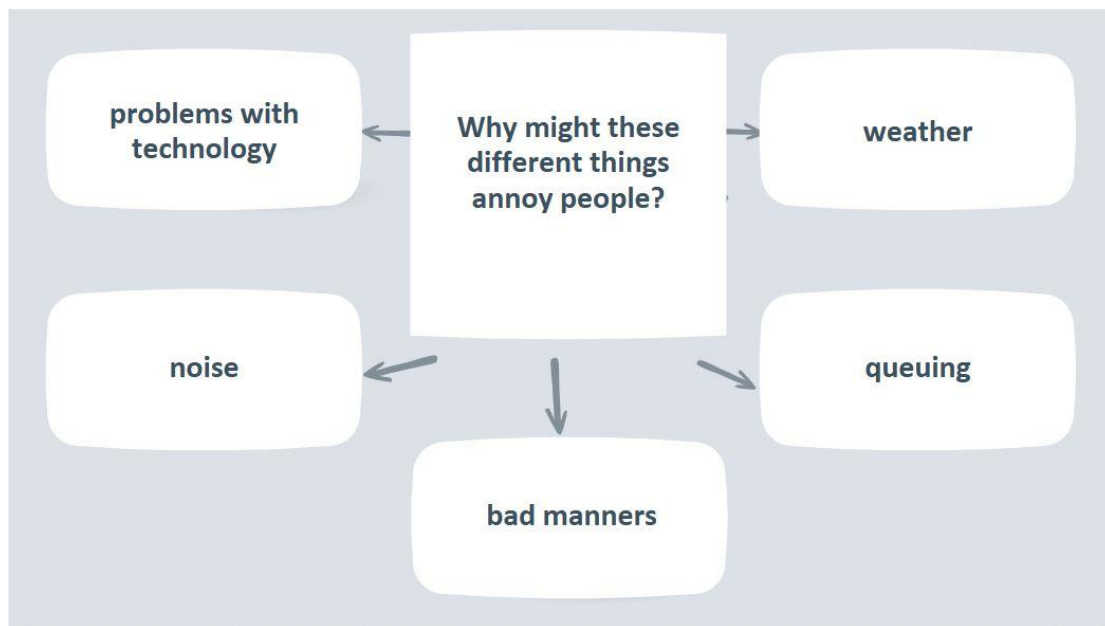


Part 4 C1 Advanced Speaking

Use the following questions, in order, as appropriate:

- How important do you think it is for people to be aware of problems that affect people in other countries?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Some people say that it is better to solve problems in our own countries before thinking about world problems. What do you think?
- What do you think is the best way to bring world issues to people's attention?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Do you think that ordinary individuals can help solve big, international problems?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Is it important to donate money to international charities?... (Why? / Why not?)
- Some people believe that certain global problems are too big to solve and that it's too late to try. What do you think?

Part 3

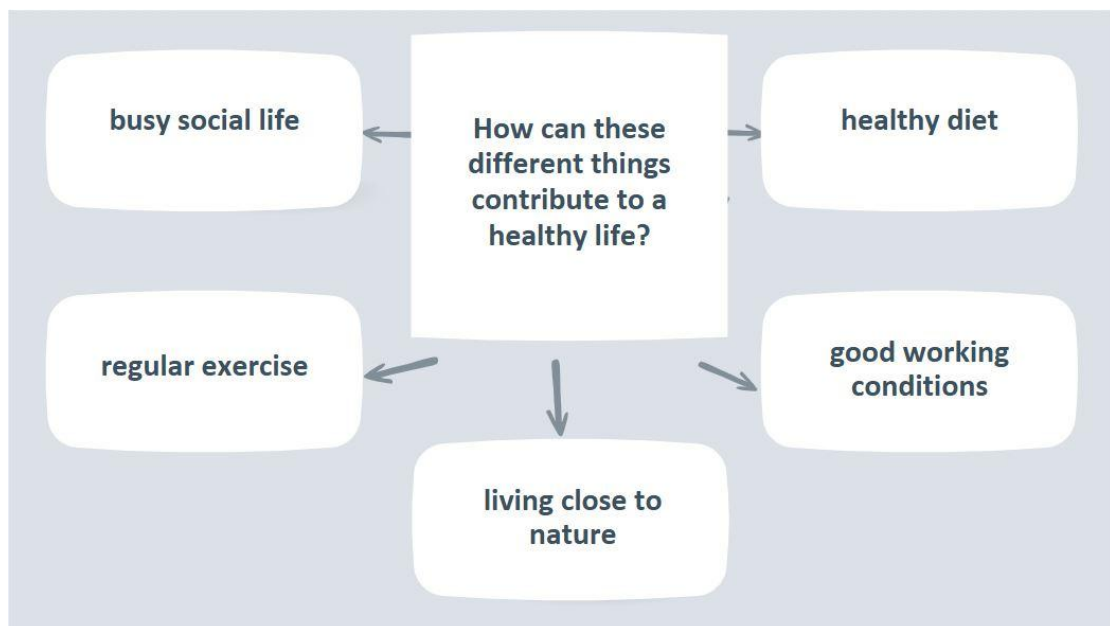


Part 4

Use the following questions, in order, as appropriate:

- Why do you think some people lose their temper more often than others?
 - Do you think the pace of life today makes it more likely for people to lose their temper? (Why?/Why not?)
 - People say that getting angry can sometimes have a positive outcome. What's your opinion?
 - Do you think 'anger management' courses can be a good idea? ...(Why? / Why not?)
 - Is it always better to show your feelings rather than hide them? (Why?/Why not?)
 - Do you think we become less tolerant of other people's behaviour as we get older?... (Why? / Why not?)
-

Part 3

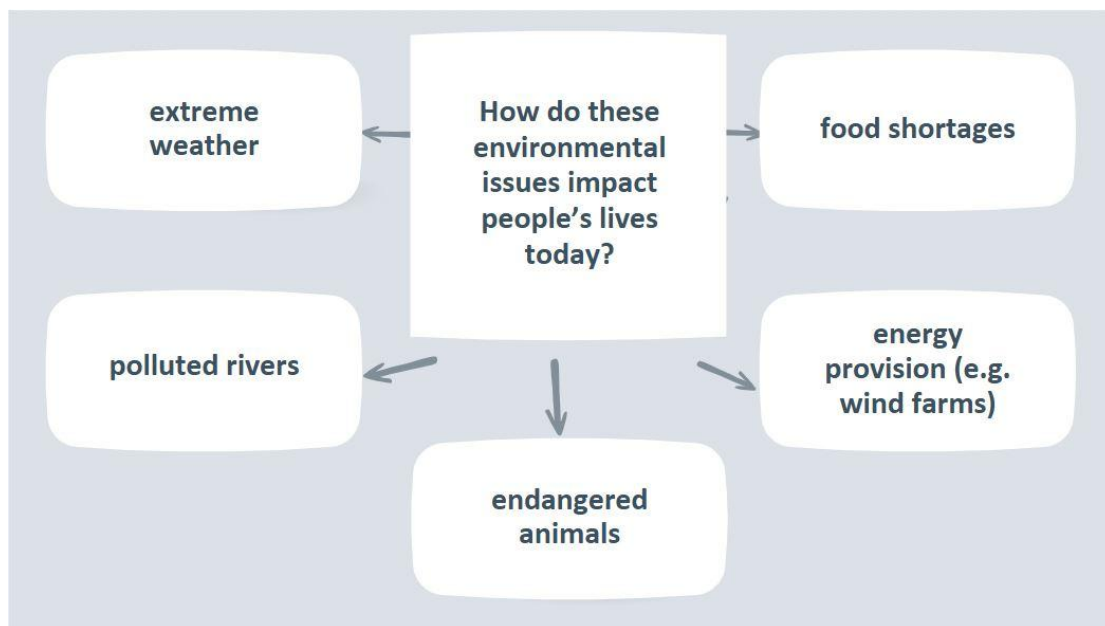


Part 4

Use the following questions, in order, as appropriate:

- Some people believe we should just enjoy ourselves and not worry about our health. What do you think?
 - Do you think health care should be freely available to everybody?...(Why?)
 - At what age do you think schools should start educating children about healthy living?...(Why? / Why not?)
 - Do you think our attitudes to healthy living change as we get older?...(Why? / Why not?)
 - Do you think it's good for our health to take regular holidays? ...(Why? / Why not?)
 - Some people say that that laughter is sometimes the best form of medicine. How far do you agree?...(Why? / Why not?)
-

Part 3

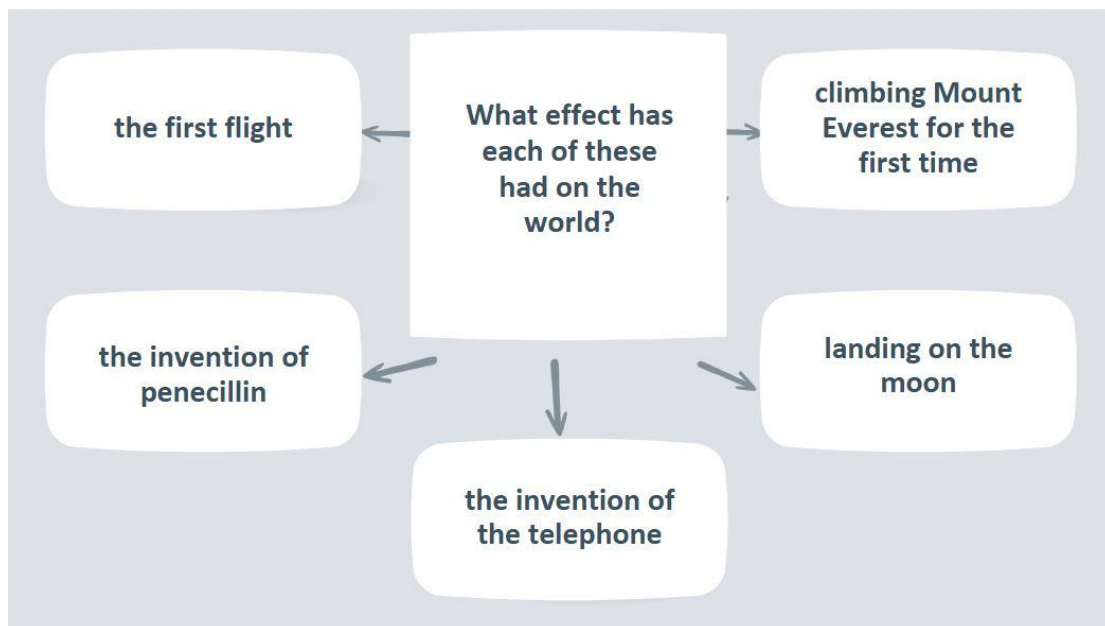


Part 4

Use the following questions, in order, as appropriate:

- Do you feel that people are fully aware of the environmental problems we face these days?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Some people say that it won't be possible to reverse any environmental damage done so far. What's your view?
- Do you think it's a good idea to encourage children to cycle from an early age?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Do you think it would be a good idea to reward people for the amount of rubbish they recycle?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Charities raise a lot of money for the environment. How helpful do you think this fundraising is?...(Why? / Why not?)
- Some people say we should only live for today and not be concerned about the future. Do you agree?...(Why? / Why not?)

Part 3

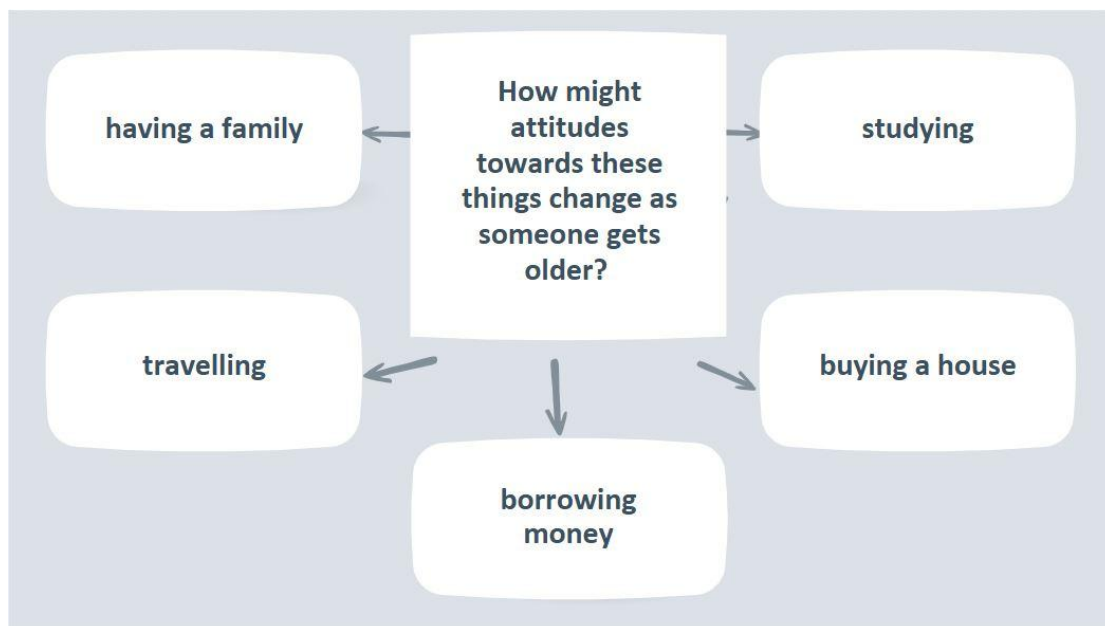


Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- Which famous event would you like to have been involved in? (Why?)
 - How important is it to enjoy new experiences in life?.... (Why?)
 - Some people say nothing can be achieved without effort. How far do you agree with this?
 - What aspects of life today do you think will be remembered in the future?
 - How do you think life will change during this century?
-

Part 3

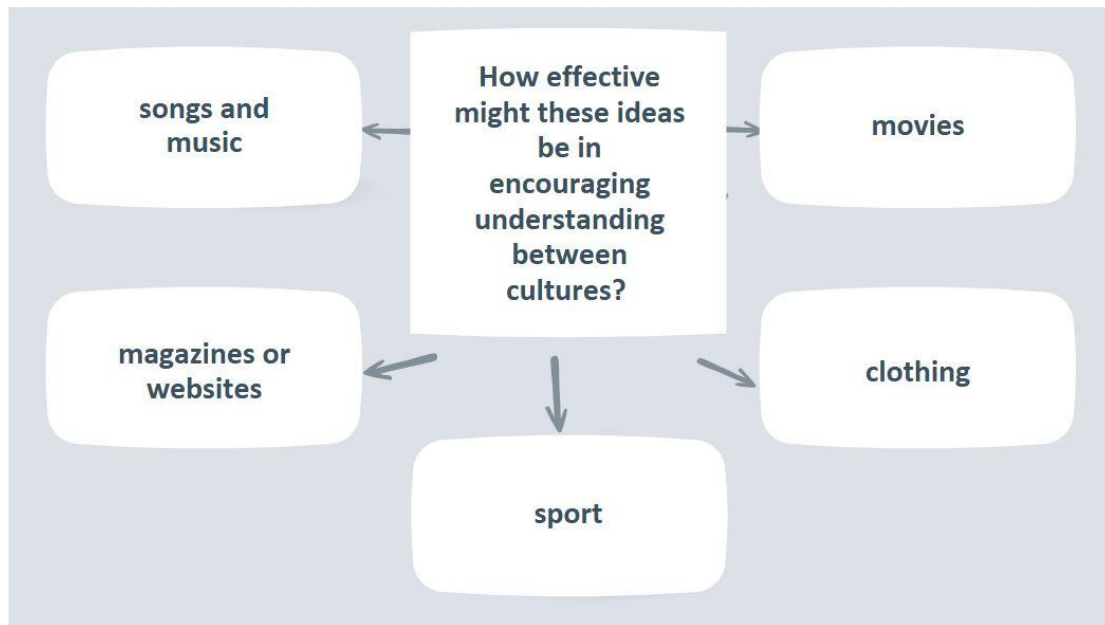


Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- What other things do you consider to be important in life?
 - Some people say that the best time in life is when you're young. What's your opinion?
 - As people get to know each other better; do you think they become more, or less, tolerant of one another?....(Why?)
 - In your country, what is the general attitude towards elderly people?
 - As people grow older; do you think they spend more time thinking about the past, the present or the future?....(Why?)
-

Part 3



Part 4

Select any of the following questions as appropriate:

- What can people learn by travelling to different countries?
- Some people say that people are the same the world over. What's your view?
- What can people do in their everyday lives to understand each other better?
- How important is it for people to learn different languages.? (Why?)
- Do you think that in future our national characteristics will disappear?....(Why? / Why not?)

For useful vocabulary to answer these questions, [go here](#).