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20091220CN,20071117NA

1. S1: What quality do you think is the most important for a university student? Self-motivation, hard-working, or intelligence?

I think that the most important quality for a university student is self-motivation. This is because students who are self-motivated can always find the strength hand confidence to complete a task, even when this task is challenging, and they do so without giving up or needing others to encourage them. In the university there are so many challenging tasks, like coping with exams and meeting deadlines for papers. Those who are self-motivated do not need other people to tell them what to do or when to do it. They just do what needs to be done, in due time and with good quality. With self-motivation you are naturally hard-working, out of your own will rather than being forced by others. Intelligence also helps but it does not guarantee success. Many smart students fail their exams or cannot cope with university stress.

20100123CN,20080314NA

2. S1: What's your favorite toy or game in your childhood?

My favorite toy when I was a child was a stuffed teddy bear that named Rudolph. My grandma bought him for me when I was 2 years old. I have a lot of memories of this stuffed animal, and I still have him on my bed to sleep with every night. As a child, I used to bring Rudolph everywhere with me, and I still remember one instance: I had been shopping with my grandpa and I accidentally left Rudolph at the store, not realizing it until we got home. My grandpa drove me back to the store to get him, and I never forgot that. I' ve always felt like I' d only be able to get to sleep if Rudolph was by my side.

3. S2: Do you like to be taught by experienced teachers or by new teachers?

I think in most of the cases I would like to be taught by a veteran teacher rather than a rookie teacher. Think about visiting a dentist or seeking advice from an attorney, I'm sure many people would prefer the most experienced because they are more likely to possess well-developed skills and hands-on experience to provide what you need. New teachers may be well trained in terms of teaching methodology, but it is only through the real-world application of these theories that teachers reach their full potential, and that takes time. My own experience also proves this. From high school to university I've always done much better in subjects taught by experienced teachers than in those taught by new teachers.

20100227CN,20081114NA

4. S1: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is good for students to attend a university or college in a foreign country. Explain why.

Studying overseas has a number of advantages. Firstly, it may give students access to knowledge and facilities such as laboratories and libraries which are not available in their home country. Furthermore, by looking abroad students may find a wider range of courses than those offered in their home country, and therefore one which fits more closely to their particular needs. Finally, students learn to be independent and more adaptable to a new environment. These are important qualities for future success. So I would say it is good for students to study in a foreign country.

20100410CN,20090313NA

5. S1: Describe a gift that you want to give to someone.

If I were to give someone a gift, I would choose something that is personally hand-made. A photo calendar would be a good choice because it's not only memorable but also useful. It's easy to make your own photo calendar as a gift. There are many websites where you can print out a calendar using a template but customize the photos in the calendar. So I would upload some of the nice photos I took recently, especially those that would remind us of the sweet memories we shared, like the pictures of a beach or a party we went to together. To make it even more personal, I would write on each page of the calendar a few words expressing how I cherish our friendship.

6. S2: Is it easier to be a teacher than to be a student?

I've never been a teacher before but I guess it must be more difficult than being a student. First, being a teacher, especially a professional and well4 1iked one, you have to possess an abundance of knowledge and skills in at least one subject. To achieve this, a teacher often has to spend years studying teaching methodology and even more years practicing and improving their skills or teaching. Also, teachers have much greater responsibility and thus more pressure than students do. Teachers often try very hard to meet the great expectations or both the student, and their parents, as well as the high standards set by school management and the general public. This could lead to high levels of stress for teachers.

20100424CN,20081108NA

7. S1: Describe your favorite teacher. Explain why you like him or her. Include reasons and details to support your response.

My favorite teacher is Miss Yang, a 30-year-old young woman who is now teaching me English in a training school. I like her because she is NOT like a teacher in a traditional sense. You know what a stereotyped teacher looks like - serious, strict, sometimes intimidating. But Miss Yang is different. She is full of energy in the classroom, always smiling. She uses humorous language and dramatic body gestures to capture the attention of every student, so no one falls asleep during her class, no matter how uninteresting the topic was. I like her also because she is a responsible teacher. She would correct each little mistake that I made in my written essay. I know that must have been time-consuming.

20100522CN,20080509NA

8. S1: Describe a special friend in your childhood. Explain why this friend is special to you. Include reasons and details to support your response.

I can't talk about my childhood without mentioning Tom. We have been neighbors since we were in primary school. We kind of stuck together since we found we have many things in common. For example, we both loved soccer and joined the school soccer team. We loved science fictions and were both devoted fans of the Star Trek series. People said we even looked similar, a little bit chubby with about the same height However, Tom is a special friend not just because of these similarities. To me, he is special teacher who first introduced me to the world of astronomy, which seemed to be his specialty. He would let me spend hours looking up into the sky, teaching me how to remember the names and positions of the stars and constellations.

9. S2: Some people prefer to be a leader in a group project, while others prefer to be a supporting member in a group project. Which do you prefer and why? Use examples and details in your explanation.

If I could choose, I would prefer to be a leader in a group project. Although being a leader in a group means more responsibilities, it also means 1 am given the chance to develop my leadership and management skills, which I think are very important in the current society. For example, when I am applying for a job, my resume would look a lot better if it could include a successful project I have personally led. Well I'm not saying supporting members are not important. It's just that the work of a leader is more challenging, so it is more valued.

10. S1: Describe a time when you tried to do something that you have never done. Explain what you did and why you did it.

Talking about something I tried to do for the first time. I can't help but think of last summer when I did my first bungee jumping in Macao. I travelled there with my friends and we were visiting the Macau Tower when we came across this big bungee jumping sign. It took me a while to collect enough courage and finally make the decision to have a try because 1 was not an adventurous person at all. But I thought I should do something that could make me proud of myself, so I gave it a shot. I was connected to a large elastic cord. After making sure everything was OK, I jumped off the platform. I think it was 200 or 300 meters high. The free falling lasted about 20 seconds but for me it was close to forever.

11. S2: Some people prefer to do one job or project at one time. Other people prefer to do several jobs or projects at the same time. Which do you prefer and why?

I think it's better to focus on doing one thing at a time, rather than handling multiple tasks at the same time. The human brain is not a computer after all; it really can't think of that many things in parallel. If you are hungry and thinking about donuts, then you probably will not be able to focus on solving a math problem. So if you dedicate all your thoughts to only one task, you will get it done more quickly and accurately, where as if you split your time and effort between different tasks, you run the risk of not completing any one of them with good quality. This is why at the end of each term I would cancel another activities and focus on preparing for the exams only.

12. S1: Describe one of your friends. Explain how you met and became friends.

My friend Jenna is an interesting girl. She's realty smart, for one thing. She's a physics major and there have been times where she's tried to explain her homework assignment to me and I honestly didn't understand a word of it. It was like gibberish to me! She's also very athletic. She plays basketball and tennis; she even tried out for the wrestling team! Yet, at the same time, Jenna can be so silly. She loves to get dressed up in wacky outfits, with mismatched pants and dresses and shoes and take pictures of herself. I first met her in the dorms, the First day of my freshman year of college. A light bulb was burned-out in the hallway and we went on an adventure trying to figure out where on campus we could find a new one.

13. S2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Personality changes as one grows older.

Many people say that personality is genetically determined, but I believe that it changes with age. For example, as people reach middle age, they tend to become more mature and less dependent on others. They care more about their work, responsibilities, and those in their lives. When people get old, they are less energetic and become less open to new ideas and concepts. These are all personality changes that naturally occur when people get older. Another possible factor of personality change is education. As knowledge accumulates over the years, people's understanding of the world or of themselves may both change, leading to a different pattern of personality

14. S1: If you were to become a volunteer at the school or in the community, what kind of volunteer work would you do and why?

I think People have to contribute to their communities, societies and humanity in some way, and doing volunteer work is a great way to achieve this. If I got the chance, I would like to become a care-giver volunteer for my neighborhood. I am a medical student and I believe that I have the professional skills and knowledge to offer help to those local people who are sick, disabled or semi-bedridden. Even if they do need medical attention, or if I am not qualified to do so, I could always help by doing laundry, cleaning, cooking, etc, for them, which is also important. I think it is truly gratifying work and I hope that if I need help someday, that someone might come to help me.

15. S2: Do you agree or disagree with the statement: artists and musicians are important to our society.

I definitely agree with the argument that artists and musicians play an important part in our society. First of all, they enrich our routine, monotonous and sometimes boring daily life, sort of clean the dust from our existence. Whenever I feel tired, I would always listen to some soft piano music which never fails to make me feel better. Another thing is that they inspire all kinds of emotions in us such as courage, patriotism and love. You can simply think of the moment when national anthem is played out to see my point

20101023CN,20090801NA

16. S1: Talk about one activity you will do in the near future. Explain why you want to do this activity.

In a few days my sister and I are going to the art museum downtown. They're having an exhibition about Post-impressionism painters right now, mostly van Gogh, and it is ending within the next week or two, so I want to get down there while I still can. I kind of wish I hadn't waited so long, though! My sister and I have always enjoyed going to art museums together, even when we were little. Our grandparents used to take us. I can remember, probably around the time I was in kindergarten, gazing up at a painting and just being fascinated. No matter how many times you see a piece of art, it can still enchant you.

17. S2: Some students take notes very often during class. Other students do not take notes or rarely take notes. Which do you think is better?

I'm going to go to the store and gel my nephew, Adam, a birthday present. He's turning four on Friday and that's also the day of his party. He really likes big cats, like lions and panthers, so hopefully I'll be able to find a stuffed animal of one of those. If not, his mom always likes when he gets educational toys as presents. I'm sure the store will have a puzzle or alphabet game that would be perfect for Adam. No matter what presents he ends up getting, I have a feeling Adam's favorite part of his birthday party will be the cake. It's going to be lemon cake with vanilla frosting this year. I can't wait!

20101114CN,20090807NA

18. S1: Describe a historical event that you' re interested in most. Explain why you are interested in it and want to know more about it. Include reasons and examples to support your response.

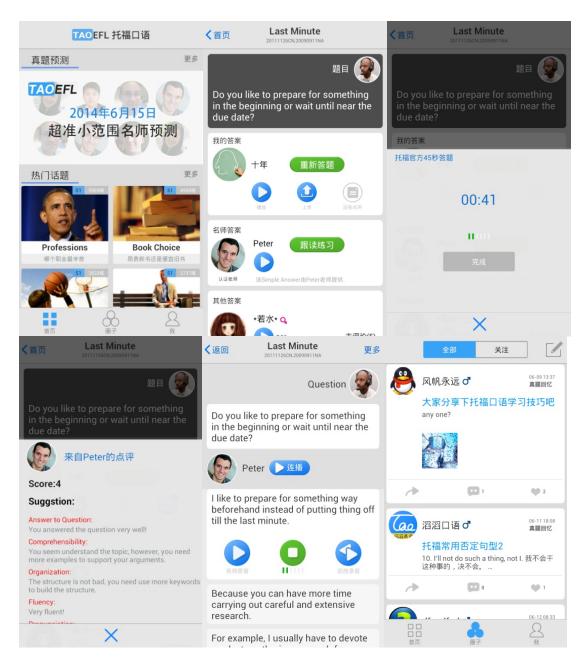
I have long been fascinated by the sinking of the Titanic ever since I watched the movie they made about it I still have many questions like how it was built, how they had called it unsinkable beforehand, how the passengers ranged from some of the wealthiest people in the world to poor third class people in cramped rooms on the lower decks, how they insisted on seating the women and children in the lifeboats before the men ... There are just so many tragic and unbelievable elements that all came together on one horrible night! Everything happened so fast and so long ago, there are still so many factors I wonder about. But every time I learn something new about Titanic's sinking, I feel like I'm uncovering part of the mystery.

19. S2: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? What a person wears can show his or her personality.

I would agree, for the most part, but only in a very general sense. For instance, if someone is dressed very sharply, in a nice suit, I would think them to be professional and on-the-ball. I don't know any details about their personality, but at least I know they were thoughtful enough and had enough foresight to dress very nicety that day. Meanwhile, if someone is wearing sweatpants and a raggedy old t-shirt with stains all over it, I might think they were sloppy and careless. Once again, they could be the nicest person in the world or a complete jerk; I have no idea about who they truly are! But their fashion choices can give me an immediate read on them, whether it is entirely accurate or not.

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