

• **A group activity**

- **Describe a group activity you want to take part in**
- **You should say:**
 - **What the activity is**
 - **Who will participate**
 - **What you will do**
 - **Why you want to do it**

An group activity I did was being a student organizer back in 2008 during the Si Chuan earthquake. It was a national disaster and our school decided to organize a huge donation. One day, the headmaster came to me and told me that he wanted me to be one of the student organizers. It was really time-consuming and besides my studies, this took up most of my time because I had to go around each class to tell students and I had to help with the storage of the donations. I was quite lucky because there were 3 others student organizers and we coordinated well and had nice organization. It felt really great working with the other three students and the teamwork made everything more efficient. Even though we worked like dogs and I was so busy, I think I did my part as a student in terms of helping with everything. For me, just the thought of all the donations being able to reach the hands of those people who are in need is quite rewarding when I think back on this experience, I feel that everything was worth it and I feel really good about it.

• **An occasion when you forgot something**

- **Describe an occasion when you forgot something**
- **What it was**
- **What you forgot**
- **How it affected you**
- **Why you forgot it**

An occasion I forgot something was when I forgot my mom's birthday. Normally every year I would always DIY a gift for my mom. Last year, I was being pounded by studies / work and I lost track of my mom's birthday. Instead of me calling my mom, my mom called me and asked if I remember what day it was that day. All of sudden I realized that it was my mom's birthday and I started to apologize for forgetting. I could hear the disappointment in her voice and I'm sure for every parent, it kind of hurts if their children forgets their birthday. I felt really bad about it and the next day, I bought some flowers and went home to see my mom. When I saw her, I gave a big hug. I don't want to hurt my mom because she is the most important person to me in my life so in the future, I'm sure I'll never forget her birthday.

• **A Home**

- **Describe a beautiful house or flat that you like**
- **You should say:**
 - **when you visited this home**
 - **where it was**
 - **what it looked like**
 - **and explain why you liked it.**

A beautiful house that really impressed me was my friend's home. His home is a beautiful Oceanside villa next to the beach in Qing Dao. His house has a spectacular view of the ocean and you can feel the cool ocean breeze. The interior of his home is really spacious. He has a huge living room with a large TV hanging on the wall and his home is contemporary style so it feels very trendy. One thing that impressed me was the overall feeling, the colours in his home were very simple, mostly light colours so it feels very modern but also quite cozy. His home was really neat and clean so when you walk in, it feels very comfortable. The house has 5 bedrooms so there are plenty of room for people to stay at his home. The room I stayed in had a nice patio so I can sit outside and enjoy the ocean. In the back of his home there is a huge garden with lots of foliage and a pond. The garden is a nice place for a BBQ or a gathering. Overall, I think it's the most impressive house that I have visited and I hope that I could have a nice house like this in the future.

• **A place you visited that's far away from home**

A place far from home that I've been to was the Elephant park in Chiang Mai. Chiang Mai is a popular travel destination in Thailand. The elephant park in Chiang Mai is a huge park in the forest. Not only does it offer visitors elephant safaris, it's also a place where visitors can see how elephants are an important part of the Thai Culture and how they play an important role in the lives of the Thai people. The Thai people use elephants as a type of transportation and also use them to carry heavy objects. The local guide will take you through the forest riding an elephant while sharing information about how they live off of the forest. From medicine to food to cultural traditions, visitors can experience the lives of the Thai in the old days. What's more, the elephant park also has a little village where visitors can see how Thai people make all their spices and we can learn about Thai cooking. I took many pictures there and it was a great experience for me.

• **A country**

- **Describe a country you would like to visit**
- **Where it is**
- **What it's like**
- **When do you want to visit**
- **Why you want to visit this country**

I really wanna go to Thailand. Even though it's really convenient for me to go, I've never actually been there. I've heard lots of great stories about Thailand and many people around me has been I especially want to go to Chiang Mai. My friends told me that there's an elephant park in Chiang Mai and it's a huge park in the forest. Not only does it offer visitors elephant safaris, it's also a place where visitors can see how elephants are an important part of the Thai Culture and how they play an important role in the lives of the Thai people. From medicine to food to cultural traditions, visitors can experience the lives of the Thai in the old days. That's exactly why I want to go, to experience the life in the old days. What's more, my friend said that the elephant park also has a little village where visitors can see how Thai people make all their spices and we can learn about Thai cooking so for a foodie like merit's also a highlight.

• **A Photo**

- **Describe a photograph that you like.**
- **You should say:**
 - **what is in the photograph**
 - **when it was taken**
 - **who took it**
 - **and explain why you like it.**

I'm gonna talk about a photo I took at the elephant park in Chiang Mai. This photo was taken 2 years ago when I went there for vacation and it was a photo taken by my father. The elephant park in Chiang Mai is a huge park in the forest. Not only does it offer visitors elephant safaris, it's also a place where visitors can see how elephants are an important part of the Thai Culture and how they play an important role in the lives of the Thai people. The Thai people use elephants as a type of transportation and also use them to carry heavy objects. The local guide will take you through the forest riding an elephant while sharing information about how they live off of the forest. The photo was taken when I was riding the elephant. It was a really great photo because the elephant lifted it's trunk to my face and it seems that it had a big smile on it's face. I also had a big smile on my face and it's just one of those photos that bring me a lot of great memories and fills me with lots of positive energy.

• 核心 1 – 星爷

• A Famous Person

• Describe a famous person who has impressed you.

• You should say:

• when you learned about this person

• what sort of life they had before they became famous

• what achievement this person had

- and explain why this person influenced you .

A famous person in my country is 周星驰. He is a famous actor from Hong Kong. He is known as the king of comedy and all his movies are comedies. I knew him since I was young, you know he's been around a long time and we all watched ZXC movies growing up. ZXC grew up in a single parent family and his dream was to become a famous actor. He worked hard all his life and eventually became a top dog in China's film industry. All his films are considered classics, his talents are not just on the stage but also behind the stage. You know he is also a wonderful producer. When people think of ZXC, they think of a man who is able to bring audiences lots of happiness. I think he is not only famous but also an important figure in my country. Whether it's his experience or his work, it's just a wonderful inspiration for all and the fact that he is able to preserve all the positive energy until now, I feel that it's amazing.

Version B

• An important person in your country

An important person in my country is 周星驰. He is a famous actor from Hong Kong. He is known as the king of comedy and all his movies are comedies. I knew him since I was young, you know he's been around a longtime and we all watched ZXC movies growing up. ZXC grew up in a single parent family and his dream was to become a famous actor. He worked hard all his life and eventually became a top dog in China's film industry. All his films are considered classics, his talents are not just on the stage but also behind the stage. You know he is also a wonderful producer. When people think of ZXC, they think of a man who is able to bring audiences lots of happiness. I think he is not only famous but also an important figure in my country. He has just made so much contributions to our film industry and set benchmarks to what the Chinese audiences want. What's more, whether it's his experience or his work, it's just a wonderful inspiration for all and the fact that he is able to preserve all the positive energy until now, I feel that it's amazing.

• **An actor**

- Describe an comical actor in your country
- Who he/she is
- What kinds of movies they've been in
- What kind of person he / she is
- How you feel about this person

An actor I know is 周星驰. He is a famous actor from Hong Kong. He is known as the king of comedy and all his movies are comedies. I knew him since I was young, you know he's been around a long time and we all watched ZXC movies growing up. ZXC grew up in a single parent family and his dream was to become a famous actor. He worked hard all his life and eventually became a top dog in China's film industry. All his films are considered classics, his talents are not just on the stage but also behind the stage. You know he is also a wonderful producer. When people think of ZXC, they think of a man who is able to bring audiences lots of happiness. The humorous elements in his films are just unforgettable. I think he is not only famous but also an important figure in my country. Whether it's his experience or his work, it's just a wonderful inspiration for all and the fact that he is able to preserve all the positive energy until now, I feel that it's amazing.

• **核心 2 - 爷爷**

• **An intelligent / wise person**

- Describe an intelligent / wise person you know
- Who it is
- How you knew him/ her
- What kind of person he/ she is
- Why you think he / she is intelligent

An intelligent person I know is my grandpa. My grandpa is in his 70s now and he is has settled into a quiet retirement life in place in the suburbs that my parents bought for him. In my mind, he is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. He has made my father into the man he is today and also gave me a strong foundation on my life. My grandpa loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. Through playing chess, I learned many things and my grandpa uses these philosophies from chess and applies it in real life examples to educate me. I think I got a lot of wonderful influences from my grandpa and I'm glad a have a person like to teach me.

• An Older Person in Your Family

- Describe an older member of your family
- You should say:
 - what you do when you are together with this person
 - when you are together
 - how often you are together
 - and explain how you feel when your with him/her

An old person in my family is my grandpa. He's in his 70s now and he is has settled into a quiet retirement life in place in the suburbs that my parents bought for him. In my mind, he is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. He has made my father into the man he is today and also gave me a strong foundation on my life. My grandpa loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. Through playing chess, I learned many things and my grandpa uses these philosophies from chess and applies it in real life examples to educate me. I think I got a lot of wonderful influences from my grandpa and I'm glad a have a person like to teach me.

Version B

- **An old person**
- Describe something you do with an old person in your family
- Who it is
- What you do with him/her
- What kind of person he / she is
- How you feel

Something I do with a person in my family is playing Chess. I usually play with my grandpa. He's in his 70s now and he is has settled into a quiet retirement life in place in the suburbs that my parents bought for him. My grandpa loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. Through playing chess, I learned many things and my grandpa uses these philosophies from chess and applies it in real life examples to educate me. In my mind, he is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. He has made my father into the man he is today and also gave me a strong foundation on my life. I think I got a lot of wonderful influences from my grandpa and I'm glad a have a person like to teach me.

• **Someone you had a good time with**

- **Describe a person that you had a good time with**
- **Who it is**
- **What you did**
- **What kind of person he/she is**
- **Why you had a good time with him/her**

Someone I enjoy spending time with is my grandpa. He's in his 70s now and he has settled into a quiet retirement life in place in the suburbs that my parents bought for him. In my mind, he is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. He has made my father into the man he is today and also gave me a strong foundation on my life. My grandpa loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. Through playing chess, I learned many things and my grandpa uses these philosophies from chess and applies it in real life examples to educate me. I just love spending time playing chess with my grandpa because I'm not just playing a mind game but also learning. I think I got a lot of wonderful influences from my grandpa and I'm glad to have a person like to teach me.

A friend

- **Describe a friend you haven't seen in a long time**
- **Who he/she is**
- **How you knew him or her**
- **What kind of person he or she is**
- **Why haven't you seen each other in a long time**

A friend I haven't seen in a long time is Frank. He is like 12 years older than me and I treat him like a big brother. Frank is the son of my father's close friend. We used to see each other a lot but now they live abroad so it's really hard to get together, I haven't seen him for like 2 years. In my mind, Frank is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. Frank loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. Through playing chess, I learned many things and Frank uses these philosophies from chess and applies it in real life examples to educate me. I just love spending time playing chess with Frank because I'm not just playing a mind game but also learning. He is gonna be back at the end of this year so I'm looking forward to it.

Version B

• An occasion when an old friend visited you

An occasion when someone visited me was when my friend Frank visited during spring festival. Frank is the son of my father's close friend. We use to see each other a lot but now they live abroad so it's really hard get-together. We haven't seen each other for like 2 years so it was really nice seeing him again this year. He is like 12years older than me and I treat him like a big brother. In my mind, Frank is an intelligent person because of his ways of educating and getting through to others. Frank loves playing Chinese chess so when we're together we play Chinese chess and when we play, he is able to use the chess moves I make to tell me many life philosophies and the mindset involved in me making my moves. He always thinks ahead and he can organize a plan of attack before I can even realize I made a huge mistake. When he visited, guess what we did? We played chess! I just love spending time playing chess with Frank because I'm not just playing a mind game but also learning

• A subject

• Describe a subject that others ask you information about

- What it is**
- How you knew about it**
- How you give them the information**
- Why they ask you about it.**

A subject that others ask me about are horoscopes. In my social circle, many of my friends come to me when they have problems because my hobby is learning about horoscopes. I've read many books and articles about people's behavior and their horoscope. I try to explain many things to my friends through horoscopes, whether it's people's behavior or about relationships. Horoscopes are an appealing topic to young people. I remember onetime, My friend got into a huge fight with his/her girlfriend/boyfriend and it just drove him/her crazy, He/she didn't know what to do and how to get through to his/her boyfriend/girlfriend so my friend talked to me and I used horoscopes to help him/her understand why his girlfriend/boyfriend did what they did and gave my friend a solution on how to deal with everything. It worked perfectly and everything chilled between them. To me, I think I didn't just help my friend, I also proved that horoscopes are scientific and it was rewarding for me. So now, many people come to me for advice and I can help them get a good picture of their problem. It's really interesting because horoscopes are a hot topic amongst our generation and the fact that I'm able to use what.

A book

- **Describe a book you read that you would recommend to others**
- **What it is**
- **What the book is about**
- **When you read it**
- **Why you would recommend it to others**

A book that I've read was a book called "Horoscopes for life". It's a series of books about horoscopes and I'm sure this is an appealing topic for people amongst our generation. It was recommended to me by a friend who does lots of research on this. I mean this book can explain many things through horoscopes. Whether it's people's behavior or about relationships. There's many stories and cases of how different horoscopes behave in certain situations. The book uses horoscopes to help people understand why people do what they do and gives a solution on how to deal with everything. It gives helpful tips on how to deal with different people. Sometimes the advice actually works! You know, we live in a complicated world and sometimes it's hard to understand others. I feel that this book does a wonderful job of helping people to understand others and sometimes this book provides comfort because it makes problems that we have with others understandable. I love reading this book and even now when I'm bored I'll read it again just to brush up on my horoscope knowledge.

A TV program

- **Describe a TV program you have watched**
- **What it was**
- **When you watched it**
- **What the contents were**
- **How you feel about it**

A TV show that I've watched was a show called "Horoscopes for life". It's a series on TV that's on every Wednesday night, it talks about horoscopes and I'm sure this is an appealing topic for people amongst our generation. It was recommended to me by a friend who does lots of research on this. I mean this show can explain many things through horoscopes. Whether it's people's behavior or about relationships. There's many stories and cases of how different horoscopes behave in certain situations. The show uses horoscopes to help people understand why people do what they do and gives a solution on how to deal with everything. It gives helpful tips on how to deal with different people. Sometimes the advice actually works! You know, we live in a complicated world and sometimes it's hard to understand others. I feel that this show does a wonderful job of helping people to understand others and sometimes this show provides comfort because it makes problems that we have with others understandable. I love watching this show and I'm in the habit of watching it every Wednesday.

• 核心 4 – 楼外楼

• An important building

- Describe an important building in your hometown
- Where it is
- What the building is like
- What visitors do there
- Why is it important

An important building in my hometown is “楼外楼”. It’s a building with hundreds of years of history and it’s actually a restaurant. The place is located next to the west lake which is a big theme in Hangzhou. 楼外楼 provides an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as long jing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. 楼外楼 is not just a place where people eat but it’s also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. The building itself is traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture are representative of my hometown’s history. When people come to my hometown, 楼外楼 is one of the places that tour guides will recommend because when you eat there, there’s also a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, so it’s a meal with educational value. I think this place is wonderful because it’s one of the few places that have kept the original tradition and culture of my hometown. I think we should never forget our roots and we need more places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture.

• A restaurant

- Describe a restaurant you have been to
- Where it is
- What the place is like
- What you ate
- How you felt about it

A restaurant that I’ve been to “楼外楼”. It’s a restaurant with hundreds of years of history. The place is located next to the west lake which is a big theme in Hangzhou. 楼外楼 provides an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as long jing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. 楼外楼 is not just a place where people eat but it’s also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. The building itself is traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture are representative of HZ’s history. When I went to HZ, 楼外楼 is one of the places that tour guides recommended because when you eat there, there’s also a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, suit’s a meal with educational value. I think this place is wonderful because it’s one of the few places that have kept the original tradition and culture of HZ. I think we should never forget our roots and we need more places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture.

• A special meal

- Describe a special meal you've had
- Where you ate this meal
- What you ate
- Who was with you
- Why it was special

A special meal that I've had was a meal I had at “楼外楼”. It's a restaurant with hundreds of years of history. The place is located next to the west lake which is a big theme in Hangzhou. 楼外楼 provides an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as long jing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. 楼外楼 is not just a place where people eat but it's also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. The building itself is traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture are representative of HZ's history. When I went to HZ, 楼外楼 is one of the places that tour guides recommended because when you eat there, there's also a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, so it's a meal with educational value. I've never had a meal where I can also learn history. I think this place is wonderful because it's one of the few places that have kept the original tradition and culture of HZ. I think we should never forget our roots and we need more places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture.

A place by water

- Describe a place by water that you have been to
- Where it is
- What it like
- What you did there
- How you feel about the place

A place by water that I've been to was “楼外楼”. It's a restaurant with hundreds of years of history. The place is located next to the west lake which is a big theme in Hangzhou. From the place, you can see the beautiful lake view and there's even a little pier with boats to take guests to eat on the lake. 楼外楼 provides an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as long jing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. 楼外楼 is not just a place where people eat but it's also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. The building itself is traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture are representative of HZ's history. When I went to HZ, 楼外楼 is one of the places that tour guides recommended because when you eat there, there's also a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, so it's a meal with educational value. I think this place is wonderful because it's one of the few places that have kept the original tradition and culture of HZ. I think we should never forget our roots and we need more places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture.

• A family business

- Describe a family business you know
- What it is
- Who runs it
- When did it begin
- How you feel about it

A family business that I know about is my aunt's restaurant. She bought a courtyard a few years ago and transformed it into a restaurant. The place is located next to the West Lake, which is a big theme in Hangzhou. Her restaurant is called "XX" and the name has to do with my hometown's history. XX provides an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as longjing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. XX is not just a place where people eat but it's also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. The building itself is traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture are representative of HZ's history. When you eat there, there's also a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, so it's a meal with educational value. I think it's a wonderful business idea because it has added cultural elements to the restaurant business. I think this business is really successful because it's one of the few places that have kept the original tradition and culture of HZ. I think we should never forget our roots and we need more places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture.

A future plan

- Describe a plan you have for the future (like work or study)
- What it is
- What you will need for it
- How you can make it work
- Why you have it

A plan I have for the future is to open my own restaurant. I really want to buy a courtyard and transform it into a restaurant. I want my place to be located next to the West Lake, which is a big theme in Hangzhou. I'm gonna give a name that has to do with my hometown's history. My restaurant will provide an authentic and local experience for guests and people can taste the local cuisines such as longjing shrimp and sweet and sour fish. I want my restaurant to not just be a place where people eat but also a place that reflects the original culture of HZ. I think we should never forget our roots and we need places like this to remind us and educate us about our unique culture. That's the whole idea behind my plan, is just to keep the traditions alive. The building itself will be traditional Chinese style and all the paintings and furniture will be representative of HZ's history. When people eat at my restaurant, there will also be a walkthrough about the local history and traditions, so it's a meal with educational value. I think it's a wonderful business idea because I have added

cultural elements to the restaurant business. I think this business will be really successful.

核心 5-Gameboy

A gift you received

- Describe a gift you received when you were a child
- What it was
- Who gave it to you
- Why did they give it to you
- How you felt

A gift I received when I was young was a Game boy. This was back when I was in primary school and almost everyone had a Game boy and it was the beginning of the handheld era and I wanted to stay with the trend. I asked my parents to buy it for me but they said it would-be a distraction to my studies so they said No. I felt really bad because I felt that I didn't have something that others had so I decided to work really hard in school and improve my grades so my parents can get a game boy for me as a reward. I remember I worked hard for a whole semester before finally getting my game boy. I was shocked at what I can do when I have the right motivation. My grades improved so much within the time and my parents were surprised and my teacher was also shocked. When I got my game boy, there was so much satisfaction because I worked really hard and gave up so much for it. It was quite rewarding and my parents gave it as a gift to me to recognize my hard work and it's also to remind me that I have to work hard for the things I want.

单独的几个

A time you moved

- Describe a time when you moved to a new school or new home
- Where you moved
- When it was
- What was different
- How you felt

I wanna talk about the time I moved from our old home to the home I currently live in. I moved into my current home when I was in high school. Our old home was too small and the management was really bad so my parents decided to move to a new place. Even though the new house is further away from the city center, the overall environment improved and there's better facilities and it just seemed more suitable for life. Moving into a new home is like starting a new chapter in life. There's new surroundings, new neighbors and new social circles. I remember I felt a little awkward at first because I had to get into the new rhythm but it was a quick transition for me. You know like the new bus routes, I had to get up earlier to get to school and even my bed was new so I

had to get adjusted to that as well. Overall it was not bad.

套路 I wanna talk about a time when I went to a new school. When I was in the second year of high school, my family moved to ___ so I had to change schools. My new high school was a very prominent school in _____. It's one of the top in the city. Compared to my old school, it was a lot bigger. The high school had over 5000 students. The high school provided us with many facilities that other schools didn't have. Such as an indoor Gym, a big outdoor field and even a library. The school has always had a reputation of high test results. All the classes were harsh and the teachers really pushed us unlike my old school where we all just played around and the teachers didn't really care. At first everything was a little bit hard for me because everything was quite strange for example new classmates, new rules, new teachers but after a while I started to feel comfortable.

• A type of clothing

- Describe a type of clothing that you wear on special occasions
- What it is
- When you wear it
- What it looks like
- Why you like it

A type of clothing that I wear on special occasions is my suit. My suit is a tailored suit that fits me perfectly. The suit that I have is dark grey with two buttons. I normally wear a light blue or white shirt with my suit because I think the colors match nicely. I don't like the plain black ones because it seems too dull so I chose this color. I usually wear suits during formal occasions like weddings, graduation parties or when I attend some ceremonies with my parents. I love wearing my suit because I think it makes me look really sharp and because it's tailored, so it's only for me to wear. My dad bought it for me for my birthday and he told me that every man needs a nice suit. I think wearing this makes me feel confident as well and plus, I think it's as how of respect. I heard that in western countries, teachers wear suit to class because it's a show of respect to students and to their job. I think in the future when I go abroad, I will have many more chances to wear my suit.

• A season you like

- Describe a season you like
- What it is
- What kind of weather does this season have
- What you do during this season
- Why you like this season.

A season that I like is the summer. The summer is a time to play and relax.

There are many things to do in the summer time, for example swimming, drinking cold drinks, eating BBQ outside while drinking beer and going to the ocean. What's more can wear less clothes during the summer time so it feels very comfortable. I love the summer feeling because I can wear my shades and enjoy the beautiful sun. Everything seems so relaxing during the summer time. Although there's frequent rain and the temperature is extremely hot during the summer time, I still don't mind because summer is so energetic and vibrant.

A season that I really like is the spring time. The spring time is a time of new life and it feels that the world has come back to life. In my country we have our spring festival to celebrate spring time. The spring time is a feels like a new beginning for everything and the spring time is like a transition period from the cold winter to the weather starting to get warmer and we can wear less. The weather is a lot nicer as well, there's no strong wind like the autumn, cold like the winter or sudden rain like the summer, the weather is quite smooth during the spring. What's more, I feel that the world is more colourful during the springtime. During the spring I like to go on some spring outings to the suburbs or go fly a kite at the park. Personally I love green so I feel that spring changes the colour from grey to green and it just feels a lot more vibrant.

• A wild animal

- Describe a wild animal from your country
- What it is
- When you can see it
- What it looks like
- Why you like it

A wild animal in my country is the golden monkey. It's also considered a national treasure next to the panda and the Tibetan antelope. The golden monkey is an animal only found in the central and southwest regions of my country. What makes it special is that it's hair is golden colored and it's face is white. The monkey's color really stands out above all other types of monkeys. The golden monkey is extremely playful and lively as well. The golden monkey is on the verge of extinction so it's only found in zoos. I remember the first time when I saw this animal, it really caught my attention because I've never seen any type of monkey so bright and it was just running around and climbing between trees unlike the other monkeys that just sat there. I really nice this animal because of it's golden feeling and it just feels so much classier than all the other monkeys.

• A Product from Your Country

- Describe something that is produced in your country
- You should say:
 - what the product is
 - what it is used for
 - how it is made
 - and explain why your country produces this thing.

A product from my country is the famous “Big white rabbit” milk candy. This candy has been around for along time, like about 50 years. I’ve been eating it ever since I was young. It’s one of those classic products that grew up with me. After all these years, the wrapper is still the same and nothing about it has changed. Like, you know, the taste is the same, the packaging is same. It’s a popular candy in my country and I’m pretty sure everyone has had a Big white rabbit. Like I said, the big white rabbit candy is a milk candy but I’m not sure how it’s made because I don’t have any professional knowledge about candy making. I think this product is produced because everyone needs a little bit of sugar to make their lives sweeter. Even now, when I have a “big white rabbit candy” I feel that I’m reliving my childhoods I think it’s really nice to have this around to be that thing that grows up with you and is still around all these years.

• A film

- Describe a film you didn’t like
- What it was
- What was it about
- When you watched it
- Why you didn’t like it

A film I didn’t like was a film called Tiny Times. It’s the film version of a book by an author in China called GJM. It’s got an all star cast with lots of beautiful actresses and handsome actor. The plot is about four girls and their lives from during the transition from graduating from college and entering society. What makes this film really bad is that its ends across a really bad message to people. The movie is all about vanities and showing off. These elements are exaggerated to a point where it’s kind of disgusting. The story is not very healthy and it promotes a very superficial and materialistic attitude. I really disliked this film because there’s too much exaggeration and it’s quite unrealistic. Graduation and entering society is an important stage in everyone’s life and this film just sends the wrong message across. I can’t believe there’s also Tiny Times 2 and 3.

• 核心7 –

• An occasion you were busy

- Describe an occasion in which you were busy
- When it was
- What you did
- Who was with you
- Why you were busy

An occasion I was busy was organizing a donation for the victims of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake. It was a national disaster and our school decided to organize a huge donation. One day, the headmaster came to me and told me that he wanted me to be one of the student organizers. I was quite surprised because I've never done anything like this before and I wasn't really sure if I was up to it. I thought it over for a few days and I agreed to take the challenge. It was really time-consuming and besides my studies, this took up most of my time because I had to go around each class to tell students and I had to help with the storage of the donations. I was quite lucky because there were 3 others student organizers and we coordinated well and had nice organization but we felt we were still short on hands and we had to do so much. Even though we worked like dogs and I was so busy, I think I did my part as a student in terms of helping with everything. For me, just the thought of all the donations being able to reach the hands of those people who are in need is quite rewarding when I think back on this experience, I feel that everything was worth it and I feel really good about it

• A important letter

- Describe an important letter / email that you received
- What the it was
- When you received it
- Who told you about it
- How you felt / Why you think it's important

An important letter that I received was a notice from my headmaster telling me to be a student organizer in 2008 during the Si Chuan earthquake. It was a national disaster and our school decided to organize a huge donation. I was quite surprised because I've never done anything like this before and I wasn't really sure if I was up to it. I thought it over for a few days and I agreed to take the challenge because I felt that this was an opportunity for me and the headmaster trusted me. The job was really time-consuming and besides my studies, this took up most of my time because I had to go around each class to tell students and I had to help with the storage of the donations. I was quite lucky because there were 3 others student organizers and we coordinated well and had nice organization. It was an important letter for me because it really opened me, you know this was something I've never done before and after completing this assignment, I felt that I knew my potential better and I'm not

afraid of trying new things anymore. Now, I'm quite open to trying new things and doing things that I don't think I can do.

• **An important decision /A decision that took a long time to make**

• **Describe an important decision you made**

- **What it was**
- **When you made it**
- **Who helped you make it**
- **Why you think it's important**

An important decision that I made was to be a student organizer. In 2008 there was a huge earthquake in Sichuan, it was a national disaster and our school decided to organize a huge donation. One day, the headmaster came to me and told me that he wanted me to be one of the student organizers. I was quite surprised because I've never done anything like this before and I wasn't really sure if I was up to it. I thought it over for a few days and I agreed to take the challenge because I felt that this was an opportunity for me and the headmaster trusted me. It was really time-consuming and besides my studies, this took up most of my time because I had to go around each class to tell students and I had to help with the storage of the donations. I think I made the right decision and It was an important decision for me because it really opened me, you know this was something I've never done before and after completing this assignment, I felt that I knew my potential better and I'm not afraid of trying new things anymore. Now, I'm quite open to trying new things and doing things that I don't think I can do.

• **核心-电子词典**

• **Something that helped you to learn a language**

- **Describe something you used to help you**
- **learn another language**
- **What it is**
- **How you use it**
- **How you knew about it**
- **How you felt about it**

Something that helped me learn another language is my electronic dictionary. You know, at this point in my life, being able to pass the IELTS is everything. So I'm working really hard to improve my English. When I'm doing reading or when I'm doing listening, I really need my electronic dictionary to help me out with unfamiliar vocabulary. Whenever I'm studying English, I like to keep this handy tool by my side and it's actually a source of comfort for me, because you know for a language learner, seeing a new vocabulary word is like meeting a stranger, you need someone there to make the introductions so you can feel comfortable with everything. The electronic dictionary I have is top of the line so the translations are more accurate and I'm able to see synonyms of

vocabulary words to help me understand the meaning better. My electronic dictionary is great because it can help me with my pronunciation. So for me this is really something that helped me a lot on my road to learning English.

Something that you cannot live without (besides mobile phone or computer)

- **what it is**
- **What you use it for**
- **How it benefits your life**
- **Why you can't live without it**

Something that I can't live without is my electronic dictionary. You know, at this point in my life, being able to pass the IELTS is everything. So I'm working really hard to improve my English. When I'm doing reading or when I'm doing listening, I really need my electronic dictionary to help me out with unfamiliar vocabulary. Whenever I'm studying English, I like to keep this handy tool by my side and it's actually a source of comfort for me, because you know for a language learner, seeing a new vocabulary word is like meeting a stranger, you need someone there to make the introductions so you can feel comfortable with everything. The electronic dictionary I have is top of the line so the translations are more accurate and I'm able to see synonyms of vocabulary words to help me understand the meaning better. My electronic dictionary is great because it can help me with my pronunciation. So for me this is really something I can't live without.

Something that I can't live without is my mp3 player. I'm a music lover and I like to listen to music where ever I go. Even though nowadays, many people use their phones as mp3s, I'm one of those nostalgic people and I started to collect music since 2008 so all the songs are on it. It's not just an mp3 player to me anymore, it's more of a friend that has been with me for a long time and has stored all my musical memories. One time, I got up late so I rushed out of my home and I forgot to bring my mp3. For the whole day, I felt like I was missing something and it felt kind of weird. There was a feeling of absence. You know, I'm used to listening to music when I'm on the go, on that day, all I could hear was the chattering of other people and the sound of cars. It was quite irritating because normally I block out all those sounds with my mp3. On that day I realized I'm kind of dependent on my mp3 because I love my world of music.

核心 - 家里的白菜

A piece of art

- Describe a piece of art you have seen (such as a painting or a statue)
- What it is
- Where you saw it
- What it looked like
- How you feel about it

Ok, well, I'm gonna talk about a jade cabbage that's in my home. You're probably thinking cabbage? Yea, you know, in Chinese, cabbage is “白菜” which sounds like the word 百财 meaning lots of wealth. People in China usually give this as a precious gift to bring their wishes to others. The jade cabbage in my house is quite big, like the size of a basketball and it was given to my father from an old friend who my father had helped. The cabbage has been in our living room before I was born, so it's been around for a long time. The quality of the jade is excellent and it has an estimated worth of one hundred thousand RMB. My father thinks very highly of it so it's like a family treasure for us. Personally, I really like it because I think it's just so awesome, the craftsmanship is so amazing and just the thought of making a vegetable seem so lifelike using jade is just so fascinating .

An old thing in your family

- Describe an old thing in your family
- What it is
- When you got it
- What it looks like
- How you feel about it

Ok, well, I'm gonna talk about a jade cabbage that's in my home. You're probably thinking cabbage? Yea, you know, in Chinese, cabbage is “白菜” which sounds like the word 百财 meaning lots of wealth. The cabbage has been in our living room before I was born, so it's been around for a long time. The quality of the jade is excellent and it has an estimated worth of one hundred thousand RMB. People in China usually give this as a precious gift to bring their wishes to others. The jade cabbage in my house is quite big, like the size of a basketball and it was given to my father from an old friend who my father had helped. My father thinks very highly of it so it's like a family treasure for us. Personally, I really like it because I think it's just so awesome, the craftsmanship is so amazing and just the thought of making a vegetable seem so lifelike using jade is just so fascinating .

- 核心

A sport you do

- Describe a type of sport you like to do
- What it is
- When you do it
- Where do you do it
- Why you like it

A physical exercise that I like to do is Badminton. I grew up playing badminton, you know it's a very common sport in China. It's not a sport that requires expensive equipment or facilities so it's people from all levels can play it. You just need a racket and a net. I play badminton almost every week. During the weekends, I will call my friend and we will set up a game. We normally play badminton in the courts next to my home. This sport is a test of one's endurance and agility as well as coordination skills. Badminton really promotes our competitive spirit and at the same time it's a really great type of exercise because it get's your whole body moving. I really enjoy it because it's fun to play and it's fast paced so I think it's suitable for a young person like me.

A sports event /A sports competition

- Describe a sports competition that you have attended
- What it was
- When you attended
- What you did
- How you felt

A sports event that I participated in was my high school sports competition. I think every student in China has had this experience because all schools organize events like this every year. I grew up playing badminton, you know it's a very common sport in China. This sport is a test of one's endurance and agility as well as coordination skills. In the sports competition, I took part in the badminton tournament. It was a great chance to show my talents to my fellow classmates as well as my teachers. The sports competition really promoted our competitive spirit. In the end, I didn't get first place but it didn't really matter. I think sport is about winning your self and competing with yourself before you compete with others. I really enjoyed the cheers and support from my classmates. Sometimes, I think I do it for the experience and participation.

- 核心

A Class / Course You Studied

- Describe a high school or university class or evening course you took
- You should say:
 - what the subject was
 - where you studied it
 - what the contents of the course were
 - and explain why you studied this subject

A course that I remember really well is my high school Calculus class. You know, the Chinese education system is quite harsh especially for middle school and high school students. I remember when I was in high school, I was struggling with math especially calculus. It was just a nightmare for me and I felt that I couldn't pull through. When I saw all the numbers and the equations, it felt like something from another world. The teacher wasn't very helpful either because he just pushed us and really didn't care who got left behind. There were times that I felt I had been left behind. It was really bad you know. But, somewhere in all that chaos, I found the strength to pull myself together and just try to help myself. I worked extra hard and I didn't give up. In the end, my calculus improved a lot and I started to get into the rhythm. This experience taught me so much and it developed a strong quality in me which is to never let go and even now when I reflect on that experience, I'm reminded that sometimes only I can help myself.

A subject in school

- Describe a subject you didn't like
- What it is
- What the teacher was like
- What you did in the class
- Why you dislike it

A course that I disliked was my high school calculus class. You know, the Chinese education system is quite harsh especially for middle school and high school students. I remember when I was in high school, I was struggling with math especially calculus. It was just a nightmare for me and I felt that I couldn't pull through. When I saw all the numbers and the equations, it felt like something from another world. The teacher wasn't very helpful either because he just pushed us and really didn't care who got left behind. There were times that I felt I had been left behind. It was really bad you know. But, somewhere in all that chaos, I found the strength to pull myself together and just try to help myself. I worked extra hard and I didn't give up. In the end, my calculus improved a lot and I started to get into the rhythm. This experience taught me so much and it developed a strong quality in me which is to never let go and even now when I reflect on that experience, I'm reminded that sometimes only I can help myself.