

# TOEFL Speaking Q1 素材

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## Save/Make Money, Find Good Jobs

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1. Learning ... can help us become more **competitive in the job hunting market** after graduation, since currently our society needs so many people specializing in ... And also, these jobs pay well.
2. I prefer shopping online because it helps me **save money**. The goods online are much cheaper than those found in the store, probably because online stores **don't have to pay rent**, so that's why they can offer lower prices.
3. It's always the truth that the vegetables and meat cost only half as much as the prepared food. *For example*, if you go the grocery store and buy a steak, it probably costs 20 bucks, but if you just buy raw beef, I think it only costs 5 dollars *tops* (=at most). So by cooking meal on my own, I can **save a fortune** every month. ***I can use those money to do something I like, for example ...***
4. I prefer going to large department stores instead of small shops, because in the long term it can help me save a lot of money. Because when going to big stores, I often **buy things in bulk**. By doing this, I can get products in cheaper prices. So over time, I can save a lot of cost.
5. *High school students should take a gap year before entering university*, because they can use this time to **do part-time**

**jobs.** This is important since nowadays the *tuition fees* are sky high, so if they don't work part-time or do a part-time job during the gap year, they may **end up in debt.**

6. (20210410) I'd like to *work for a large company* because I may **have more opportunities for promotion.** If I work really hard, I could easily be promoted to a management position, since there are lots of those positions available for different departments.

## Save Time, Convenience, Boost Efficiency

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1. ***How can ... (e.g. taking online courses) save time/increase efficiency? How do you spend those time that you have saved?***
2. When working in a group, we can always **share/split the task**, and everyone only needs to complete a part of it, which largely saves time. And we can also **find help immediately** when running into troubles.
3. By *taking online courses*, I can study **whenever I feel best.** You know, I'm a morning person, so I can just take courses in the early morning, like 6 o'clock. By doing so, **I can be really sharp and concentrate better.** So this can help me understand the key points much better.
4. I don't need to leave my house, don't need to go to the stores, which may take hours. [Standing in lines for checkout or being in a crowd are not my favorite things to do. *Shopping online* can definitely help me avoid those troubles.] I can easily shop in my bedroom or living room, which makes my life so much easier.
5. *Reading the news* really saves time, because when I read, I can select those that interest me the most, and just skip the

boring ones or those I'm not interested in. But if I *watch the news* on TV, I'm forced to watch every single one of them, so I have to waste a lot of time.

6. ... is actually bad for the efficiency, because there are so many **distractions** that make us hard to concentrate. For example, ...
7. *Attending college full-time* is better. Study is the primary goal of most students choosing to go to college, and they can definitely **study efficiently** if they can **focus on their courses**. *Having a part-time job on the side* can be **counterproductive**.
8. (20211222) I prefer *reviewing my notes regularly* because it **suits my busy/tight schedule**. If I review my notes regularly, each time it only takes me 10 minutes, but if I **put it off until the end of the semester**, it may take me hours or even days, which is really a bad choice(, because at the end of the semester, I have lots of exams to prepare for and tons of assignments to deal with). Besides, it can help me **better understand the key points in the lecture**. While doing that, I can easily **identify the areas or parts I don't fully understand (or have problems with)**, so I can **make an appointment** with my professor and have my questions answered right before the next lecture begins.
9. (20210605) I'd like to *spend my vacation in big cities* because it's convenient. There are a lot of different **bus routes or subway lines** that can get me wherever I want to go, so getting around should never be a problem.
10. (*Send text messages / make phone calls*) I prefer calling someone, because it's **a quick way to reach others**, so that **I can get information I need in a short amount of time**. However, I will probably wait longer if I send text messages, since I don't know when exactly he or she can read my

messages. Besides, **I can express myself more effectively on the phone**, because I can correct myself if I say something wrong. However, texting is not that efficient since I have to pay extra attention on my spelling, grammar, and the order of sentences in order to convey the right information.

## Have Fun, Relax, Good Mood

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1. ... helps people **relax/take a break, relieve the stress and forget about all the troubles/take their mind away from troubles**.
2. Learning (e.g. a foreign language, art and literature, ...) is really **fun** since we can know about ..., [examples]
3. I can **get better shopping experience** by shopping online. It is much easier to compare different products and different prices. I just need to click, instead of driving around the town over and over again.
4. Attending ... classes can help students **learn from doing**, which is definitely more interesting than learning from textbooks. For example, during the class of personal finance, children can learn math from depositing and transferring money.
5. I believe that **eating junk food occasionally** can help us reduce pressure and **let off some steam**. This is based on my personal experience, because when I was in college, I had tons of exams on the very last week, and the heavy works just drove me crazy. The hearty burgers and tasty French fries just calmed me down, so I could focus back on the study again.
6. Cooking is actually a **joy** for me because I can experiment different recipes, different ingredients and even different

seasonings. I can be really creative, and tasting the delicious food I made gives me sense of satisfaction.

7. Fewer people will read books in the future, because other entertainment will be more fun, like **playing computer games**. We can be in the virtual world, we can be anyone we would like, like a soldier with a superpower to fight against the devil, and also we can be a race car driver driving really fast cars.
8. Reading can **leave room for imagination**. We can picture the scene in our mind and interpret the plot in our own way, so people can have a lot of fun.
9. During the *gap year*, students can also **travel**. After studying in high school for three years, they may **get itchy feet**, so they can use this time to go to different places, like foreign cities or unexplored wilderness.

## Good Health

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1. **fall victim to** obesity, heart problems (eating junk food like ...)
2. a **sedentary** life, sitting all day long without moving, let alone doing sports
3. myopia (a. myopic), have a poor vision/eyesight
4. ... can be really **addictive** – lots of people(/kid/...) just can't stop ... . With the control over ..., they will be ensured that ...  
.
5. Ads of junk food should be removed from TV, because **young people are quite impassive**, they don't know what's really good or bad for them. So if there are too many ads for French fries, for burgers, they're more likely to be influenced.

# Make friends, Improve Relationship, Communications

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1. When ..., we can meet people from different **academic fields** or different **cultural backgrounds** and **make friends with them**, which can help us **build a large social network**.
2. ... means that we can spend more time with my **classmates/friends/family members**. During this process, we can **talk about** .../share our hobbies/... . This can make us closer and build mutual trust.
3. We **spend a lot of time with** ..., (say, ...). In this process, we get into contact with each other and influence each other.
4. We don't have **generation gaps** with our friends, so we often feel like we can understand each other better. That's why we are more willing to accept their ideas and suggestions, even criticism.
5. I like to meet and chat with other people, whether they are friends or just strangers. I enjoy listening to what they say, learning from their experiences, and most importantly, making more friends.
6. I like to *go to the concerts or films* with a group of friends, because I can totally **spread the joy**. For example, at concerts, where I'm super excited, I'd like to sing along with the singer, wave my hands and even dance to the music. With my friends around, the joy is really **contagious**, and it can totally **create a very nice / exciting / exhilarating atmosphere**. Also, I can **have beautiful shared memories** with my friends, so in the future we can easily talk about this experience and **relive the wonderful moments**. // I think it's pretty pathetic to attend these activities without anyone else. Say, you go to the movies on your own, you have to

take the ticket, and afterward buy some snacks, beverage or popcorn, so **it's very troublesome to get all those things done**. With friends, you can split the task and save a lot of trouble. And after the movie is over, you have someone to discuss about the movie, which is interesting.

7. I prefer having a wide variety of friends and acquaintances, because I can **do different things with different friends** [example], making life more interesting. And also, I can **learn a lot from different friends** [example].
8. I can later go through these photos and **relive this piece of happy memory**, which is very cool.
9. (20210918P) I prefer the *intensive courses*, because they can **create more bonding between the professor and the students**. They can meet more frequently, like several times a week, and the professor can help students whenever needed, so this can create a better relationship between the students and the professor.
10. I prefer to *communicate with a professor in person instead of by email* because **I like the human touch**. My professors are generally very **supportive**. They use encouraging tones and body languages, so when I communicate with them in person, **I can feel at ease**.
11. We should *take photographs at important events* because we can **share them with other people**. Like if I have a lot of pictures of myself and my friends together in my home country, I can simply show these photographs to my foreign friends when I study abroad. So my foreign friends can better understand my past.

## Learn Knowledge

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1. People can learn ... from ... (e.g. watching TV). **Learn what, for example?** (e.g. foreign languages, knowledge of ..., skills

- concerning ...)
2. By (taking different courses/doing different jobs/...), students can **broaden their horizons** and find out what they are really **interested in**, which can help them **build a solid foundation** for their future studies/help them get prepared for future development.
  3. The development of modern society requires people with **comprehensive knowledge/mastery in at least one foreign language**, so those who actively explore different academic fields/start learning a foreign at a young age can **easily meet this requirement**.
  4. Through studying ..., we can actually learn some **foreign culture** (for example, what's their traditional food, and how they celebrate their festivals). With this knowledge, we can **make friends with foreigners** easily / **better communicate** with people from different countries / **respect their customs and traditions**. /// Without these knowledge, we may run into some **misunderstandings** or troubles. For example, *speaking of the appropriate time to arrive at the party*, Asian people and Western people may have different suggestions for you. Asian people prefer to arrive a lot earlier because they don't want to be late. But in Western courtesy, it's even worse to be early, because the host and the hostess may not get everything ready.
  5. Learning ... can **change the way we think and open up our mind**.
  6. I think that *playing musical instruments* is an important skill because it can easily **impress others**. On a party or social gathering, a person that can play the piano or play the guitar can always **win other people's respect**.
  7. I feel like it's not quite essential for ... to learn ..., because although it is impressive/important/..., it takes a lot of **hard**



- work** and may be **painful and stressful**. If learning ... is too difficult, ... may lose interest.
8. In a university that has a good academic reputation, we can certainly learn better. Because there are **famous professors**, a **prudently-designed curriculum** for you, and also **eminent students** learning with you together.
  9. Participating competitions in ... will motivate us to **pursue a higher standard of excellence** in ... .
  10. With the development of the science and technology, **knowledge** is becoming more and more important for the people. Without this, people can not even find good jobs. So people will need to **read more books to keep up with the society**.
  11. I like to do *team sports* because I can **improve my skills**. While practicing, I can easily **observe all my team members**. I can watch how they play and learn their tricks, and also ask them to practice with me. So with their help, I can easily become a better player.
  12. (20210904) *Electronic devices* are great learning tools. There are many **interactive apps** on the electronic devices that can teach children many things, such as a foreign language, math, or science. These interactive apps can greatly **trigger their interest** and help them easily master the knowledge. // With cell phones, children can **learn on the go**, such as when they take the bus or ride a subway, they can use their cell phones to study new English words, or maybe they can learn new math formulas.

## Learn Skills and Qualities

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1. ... helps me cultivate **team spirits**: during the team work, I can learn how to communicate with other members, how to cooperate with others, and how to handle different

opinions. Those are all vital skills for my future development.

2. I would like to take risks because it can help me improve my skill in **risk assessment**. It can help me learn how to **manage** the risk, and how to **take advantage of** it.
3. I prefer ... because it is always easy to stick to your old routines. However, **stepping out of the comfort zone**, being more **openminded** and actively **trying new things** can definitely help you in a lot of aspects. For example, ...
4. (20210626A) Children should learn how to *do household tasks*, because this can help them learn important skills, such as how to cook, how to do the laundry as well as how to tidy their own bedroom. This can help them **better look after themselves, live more independently, and adapt to different environment** more easily.
5. Students should be required to *take arts and music classes*, because these classes **promote creativity**. They allow students to **explore their imagination**, like in the art class, students can paint whatever is in their mind; in the music class, students can sing out whatever they want to sing. So in this case, students can **think outside of the box** and become a more creative person.
6. Through *taking essay courses*, students can learn **how to look up useful information, how to think critically and how to see one issue from different perspectives**. All of them are vital skills for their future development. When they have to write their own essays before graduation, they will not **get panicked**.
7. *Doing some part-time jobs* can help students **get some relevant experience**. When doing the job, they can learn some practical skills, such as how to communicate effectively with coworkers and customers. And by having

such experience, they can definitely **stand out** when they are hunting for a real job after graduation.

## Children-Parents Relationship

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1. **Parents understand their children better than anybody else**, children themselves included. Therefore, they can decide which ... is the best for their children.
2. (20211023) *Getting advice from parents is better than from peers*. First off, they can give us better advice, because **parents have traveled the same road**. In other words, they have been through similar problems that we are currently having now, so they can easily **share their experience** and help us make the right decision. Besides, they are **always willing to help**. No matter what time I call them, like late at night or during the weekends, they will definitely **make time for me**. They will listen to my problems patiently, comfort me and offer me warm advice.
3. (20210626A) If children know how to *do household tasks*, parents can **take a break**. For example, if children can clean the house or cook on their own, parents can just **go out and take a personal day**. They can hang out with their friends and relax themselves.
4. (TPO 74 *Children cause a lot of problems for their parents*) Teens are in **rebellious period**, for most of the time they tend to **act up against their parents**. *For example*, even if some parents warn their kids not to go to parties hold by strangers at night, those kids just don't listen to them and go and drink alcohol there, which is easy for them to start a fight with others. In addition to that, **they are easily influenced by people around** due to the fact that they are **too young to tell right from wrong**. *For example*, if their classmates smoke, they are more likely to imitate those

peers and pick up this bad habit, which will also create troubles for their parents.

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## Some Difficult Questions

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**TPO 14 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? One of the best ways to learn is by making mistakes. Use specific examples and details to support your opinion.**

The mistake can leave us a deep impression, which can help us remember the lesson learned from it for quite a long time.

If we are afraid of making mistakes, we may stop at where we are and make no progress, and even fail at the same place over and over again. As a saying goes, “failure is the teacher of success”. Instead of blaming ourselves about the failures we’ve made, we should try to think about **what went wrong and why we failed**, and also think of **ways to improve ourselves**. So in this way, we can turn the mistake into a stepping stone to the future success.

**TPO 15 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to remember and learn from the past. Use details and examples to explain your opinion.**

Learning from the past experiences **leads to future success**. [Example] By thinking of why I succeeded in the exam, I come to realize that taking good notes is the key. So by repeating that, it can help me do well in future exams.

Learning from the past experiences **helps us avoid mistakes**, because failure is the mother of success. If we don't do that, we may fail at the same place over and over again.

**TPO 16 Some people who unexpectedly receive a large amount of money spend it on practical things, while others spend it for pleasure only. Which do you think is better and why?**

Examples! Do what kind of things on practical things/for pleasure?

**TPO 25 Some people do not enjoy shopping and shop only when they have a specific purchase to make. Others like to go shopping for pleasure whether or not they have something to buy. Which do you prefer and why?**

I prefer the first one, because it can help me **save a lot of time**. You know, *I live in the suburbs* [Story! ], so going to the shopping center will take me at least 2 or 3 hours on the road. So by ..., I can avoid those meaningless trips, and I can save the time to do the things I like. Besides, by ..., I can **avoid spending money unnecessarily**. Because when walking in the shopping mall, you will be tempted to buy something simply because of the discount, and end up buying a lot of unnecessary stuff.

I prefer the latter, because going to the shopping mall is quite enjoyable. Even when I'm not going to buy anything, just looking at the new clothes, the delicious food and the pretty decoration at the shopping mall, that makes me feel really happy. And besides, it's also a nice chance to **meet different people** and make friends with them. I can go there with my friends and we can spend a good time there.

**TPO 27 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Parents should be involved in the process of helping their children to choose a university. Use specific reasons and details in your response.**

Disagree: **Parents usually don't know what their children really want.** Interest / Career opportunity / salary  
→ Argue

Agree: Parents have **more knowledge** about this matter.  
*When I graduated from high school, ... [Story! ]* They can help their children make better decisions **balancing the children's interest and career opportunity as well as salary.**

**TPO 31 Some university students choose to take difficult classes even if they know they might not get a good grade in the class. Other students prefer to take easier classes in which they know they will get a good grade. Which do you prefer? Explain why.**

Easy classes:

1. don't need to spend all day long studying → have the time to do the things I like
2. get good grades → feel more confident, find better jobs

Difficult classes:

1. goal for university: learn more rather than good grades
2. future employers will understand that my not-so-good grade is the result of more challenging material, so this won't influence the chance for getting good jobs

**TPO 33 Do you think that eating healthy food is easier or more difficult today than it was 40 or 50 years ago? Use examples and details to support your answer.**

Easier: a lot of people don't have enough food in the past; the food science is well developed now

More difficult: now there is more pollution; people have no time to cook, so they rely on fast food; more ads on TV about the junk food

**TPO 34 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Private car should not be allowed in the city centers of large cities. Use details and examples to explain your opinion.**

Agree: too many cars: pollutions // take hours to arrive at the destination → build public transportations instead

Disagree: congestion is the city planning problem, but not because of the cars

**TPO 37 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students will learn more if the teacher is kind and friendly. Use specific examples and details to support your opinion.**

Feel relaxed, more likely to focus on the lesson; become friends with the teacher, more likely to accept the teacher's advice, or even criticism.

*[example, tell story, contrast]*

**TPO 38 / 20220108P Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is more enjoyable for students to read works of fiction (such as novels and stories) than nonfiction. Use specific examples and details to support**

## your opinion.

Agree. Fictions usually have really **interesting characters**, such as the monsters that can fly in the sky or the people with extrasensory perceptions. Fictions can **take place in the magical world**, where everyone has magical power, so it's just more fun than reading those *documentaries or biographies*.

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I'd like to read fiction **because of my friends**. *They have started a book club where we read fictions all the time. We meet once a month to discuss the books we have read. So in order to keep up with it, I really need to read a lot of different fictions, so I can have something to say during the discussion.*  
(赖皮理由)

**TPO 44 Some people believe that primary schools should no longer teach children how to write by hand, and instead should spend time teaching them how to type on a computer. Other people believe that it is still important for schools to teach children to have good handwriting. Which point of view do you agree with? Explain why.**

Writing: develop people's artistic taste, relaxing; win some first impression from other people, especially business partner: write signatures, amazing handwriting, win trust from business partner; typing makes people forget how to spell correctly because of the automatic filling.

Typing: faster than writing by hand, more efficient; more convenient, spell check to correct mistakes, automatic filling, write a good article.



**TPO 45 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Artists and musicians are important to a society. Use details and examples to explain your answer.**

give people entertainment/relax: music, artwork, ...

form a great part of the economy: buying paintings, albums, pay tax, ...

devote to charity [*example*]

**TPO 51 Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Eighteen-year-olds are not mature enough to vote. Use specific examples and details to support your opinion.**

**cast** a vote

Agree: easily influenced by their parents, so their votes represent the preference of their parents; busy in school, barely know anything about politics.

Disagree: voting is a legal right for those over 18 years old, so this right should be protected; young people's voices should be heard in political elections, they have unique perspectives that should be taken into consideration.

**(20211127) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Students should have a say in school's policies by casting a vote.**

Mixed feelings.

Should not: students **barely have any time**, they usually have crazy schedules, they have millions of things to do, such as [*examples*]. So students cannot spare any time to think about such policies nor casting their votes.

Should: this is their chance to voice out their opinions, they can tell the university what to do and what not to do, so they can **make sure the policies tailor to their needs**, which is really **beneficial** to the students can will make their life better.

**TPO 53 When some people have a little extra money, they like to spend it right away on something they enjoy. Others prefer to save the extra money. Which do you like to do? Explain why.**

Spend the money right away: feel happy (buy what? example!); motivate me to make more money (e.g. do more hours at part-time job).

Save money: resist the urge to spend money right away to buy something, get a feeling of self-control; bring me peace of mind because I will have enough money in case I run into some emergency (e.g. pay for the medical bill); have enough money to buy or do something that costs a lot, e.g. going traveling.

**TPO 54 Some people say that childhood is the best time in a person's life. Other people disagree. What is your opinion? Explain why.**

Agree: children have a long time of vacations; children don't have a lot of responsibilities, therefore they have less stress than adults.

Disagree: children don't have control over many things; don't have money.

My answer: The youth is the best time ... . Take myself for an example. More chances to meet different people and make new friends; have chance to study in foreign countries.

**(20211128) Some students prefer to receive a grade for a class that is based on many short assignments. Others prefer to receive a grade that is based on one or two long assignments. Which do you prefer? Why?**

Short assignments: **get better grades**, because **each assignment only carries a less weight**, so even if I mess up any one of the assignments, it wouldn't hurt my overall grade that much; **less time consuming**, comparing with doing lengthy research projects.

**(20211211) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People's dress show their personality.**

It **depends on what kind of clothes** that we see:

Uniform: no, because the uniform is what you'd have to wear. (military uniform, school uniform, ...)

Not uniform, personal or casual cloth: yes, reflect your personal choice, it's of course part of a personality.

[*Example*] fancy clothes, fancy personality; plain clothes, more conservative personality.

**(20211120) When receiving a new product, some people prefer to read the instruction manuals. Others prefer to figure out how to use the product on their own. Which do you prefer and why?**

Not read: sometimes too long to read; difficult to understand the technical terms.

Read: save time (a booklet); safer, avoid mistakes.

**(20211114) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is always best to state your honest opinion, even when you know that others disagree.**

I think it really **depends** on the people I'm dealing with.

Most of the time I would state my honest opinion, even if other people may disagree with me. This is because by stating my honest opinions, I can help others **learn different perspectives**, and **see both sides of the issue**. So in this case, everyone can have a better understanding and also **see the big picture**.

However, if I am dealing with **someone very sensitive**, I wouldn't tell my honest opinion, because this may offend that sensitive person. He or she may feel like I'm **attacking** him or her, so this may **ruin our friendship**.

**(20211106) To promote academic success, your university is considering a new policy that would limit the number of hours per week that students can spend working at university jobs. Do you think this is a good idea? Explain why or why not.**

Agree: more time to study; more time to relax.

Disagree: **对于每一个限制的政策，都找到它妨碍的人，这些就是你的理由**

1. those who need money; 2. those who need job experience; 3. those who have good grades and don't need more time to study.

**(20211030) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? People in small towns are often more willing to help their neighbors than those in big cities.**

Agree. For people who live in small town,

1. they feel they **belong to a community**, because not many people are in a small town. So in a community, they feel that they are **obligated to help each other out**.
2. their life is generally **less stressful**. They don't have to work that much, they don't have to do a lot of overtime, so I think they just simply **have more time and more energy to help others**. Whenever their neighbors are in need, they would definitely **lend a helping hand**.

**(20211016) Some people like to make decision based on their own experience while other people prefer to ask others for help such as family and friends. Which do you prefer and why?**

Ask other people like parents and friends:

1. By talking with other people, I can easily **get different perspectives** on the issue, and have a deeper understanding of the **pros and cons** of the decision. Therefore, I can **make decisions prudently** and **avoid unnecessary mistakes**.
2. They are always willing to help ... (1) family members (2) friends

**(20211013) Some people think college education should be available to all people. Other people believe college education should be only available to students who have done well in secondary school. Which do you prefer?**

## Mixed feelings:

1. High school is an important **preparation/prerequisite** for the university, because students are learning the **foundational knowledge and skills**, such as how to do research and how to learn by oneself. And these knowledge and skills **lay the groundwork** for higher education. Without them, students can't adapt to the college life.
2. Everyone deserves the opportunity of education, so that they can **realize their dreams** and **realize their full potential**.

**(20211009) Some people like to attend a live performance or live sporting event, while others prefer to stay at home and watch it on TV or other electronic devices. Which do you prefer?**

On TV:

Going to those events in the stadium will be a lot of trouble, especially the **traffic jam**. Each time there are thousands of spectators, and the roads are going to be packed, people are going to get annoyed, so they will start **honking**. The noise is unbearable.

Watching sports events on the internet is just **more comfortable**. I can stay at home, sit on a sofa and watch the performance or the sporting events on TV. And I can turn on the air conditioning if it's hot outside. It will be just way more comfortable.

If you are sitting somewhere far away from the center of the stadium, you can't **see** what's going on **clearly**.

**Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is important to protect children from learning too soon about difficulties in life.**

Disagree.

Allowing ... , they can learn about how to solve problems, how to face challenges, and how to **bounce back from failures. When running into similar problems in the future**, they won't be **panicked or stressed out**, since they have already known how to face these challenges.

Help kids better look after themselves, live more independently and adapt to new environment more quickly.

**(20210929) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? We should not try to help our friends with their problems unless they ask for our help.**

Agree:

1. I just don't want to **invade their privacy**. Sometimes the problems they have could be very embarrassing. For example, they may have addiction problems, problems that they don't want us to find out about. So by not helping them, I'm **respecting their privacy and boundary**.
2. Sometimes lending a hand without being asked for is like saying "I don't think you're capable of solving the problem yourself, let me just take over". It's kind of **looking down on my friends**.

**(20210925) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Athletes do not deserve the high salaries they receive.**

Disagree.

Athletes are very **hard working**. They devote all their time into training, and they have given up a lot of things, such as the family gatherings, or the opportunities of hanging out with friends. So I think with all the **sacrifices** they've made, they deserve the high salaries.

Athletes have **short career span**. A lot of these sports are physical demanding, so some athletes may choose to retire in their early 30s. And after they retire, they may not have any income.

**(20210918A) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:**

**People should be allowed to use their digital devices wherever they are // The use of cellphones should be banned in certain situations.**

Disagree.

Create safety issues: texting while driving.

Disturb other people: in the library, talking loudly on the phone.

**(20210905) Some people think that, now with the abundance of digital devices that can do simple calculations, it's no longer important for students to learn to do calculation in their heads. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?**

Agree:

Unnecessary, since we can always use digital devices to do these calculations: faster, never make mistakes.



Kids can learn something more important that can't be replaced by digital devices, such as sports. This way, they can have a better use of the valuable school time.

Calculators actually **promote accuracy**. It's quite accurate, as long as we **punch in the correct numbers**, we should not make any mistakes. So it is more reliable than using your mind.

Calculators can **remove the tedious work of calculation**, so the children don't have to worry about the difficult steps in the calculation. Instead, they can focus their mind on the **mathematical concepts** that matter, which can help them understand the essence of math.

**(20210829) Version 1: Do you agree or disagree with this statement? If some students have not received enough credits because they failed previous exams, they should be given an additional assignment by their professors to make up credits.**

Agree:

This can help the students **graduate on time**. Without such an opportunity, they may have to spend an extra semester at the university, and graduate later than their peers. So it just **puts them at a very bad position**, they may look bad in front of their classmates.

**Students fail exams because of a lot of reasons.** For example, they may have to stay up late at night to take care of a family member who has fallen ill, or they may have experienced some family issues. So they should be given an additional assignment to make it up. Otherwise, it is not fair.

**Version 2: Some professors allow students who have not done well on graded assignments during a course to do bonus assignments in order to improve their overall course grade. Do you think this is a good idea?**

Agree.

This can help students **earn the credits**. If they don't do well in the semester, they can use this opportunity to improve their grades and pass the course, so they can **graduate on time**.

This can help students to learn more. They will be able to do research in the field of their studies. For example, they can do research about a theory, or maybe do an experiment to test an existing theory. Students can easily **expand their knowledge as well as understanding**.

**(20210828) Children should be raised in small towns or big cities? Why?**

Big cities:

Big cities have **better healthcare/medical service**. There are more hospitals and clinics. They have more and better equipment, and also they have better learned staff members. So if children get sick, they can easily get treated and recover very soon.

There are a lot of different **entertainment options**. People have so many fun places to go to during the weekend, such as the amusement parks or the cinemas. So those growing up in a big city can definitely **have a lot fun**.

**(20210822) Your university plans to restrict the use of the internet to research only and to no longer allow access to personal email and social media websites on library computers. Do you think this is a good idea? Explain why or why not.**

Agree:

This policy can easily **free up some computers**. This is because nowadays a lot of students use the computers to play games or **browse their social media accounts**, which takes a lot of time, and many students who actually need to use the computers for study may have to wait for at least half an hour. So this policy can make more computers available, and students don't need to wait.

This can better **protect computers against the viruses**. When students open the attachment (用电子邮件发送的附件) in their email, they may download viruses and **put the whole system under attack**.

**(20210821) Some people like to keep old objects, while others throw old stuff away. Which do you prefer?**

Throw away:

They take up too much space. I live in a tiny apartment, so I don't have much space for storing those old objects. By throwing them away, I can **free up some valuable space**, like on a bookshelf or on my table. Therefore, I can **keep my room neat and tidy**.

I want to **help people who are in need**. I usually have a lot of clothes that I don't wear anymore, so by donating them to people who are less fortunate, I'm actually doing them a favor.

Keep:

I feel happy when I look at these old things, because they're full of my **past memories**. For example, I've kept a photo of my family taken by the sea 5 years ago, and each time I look at the photo, it really reminds me of the good old days I spent with my family – we went surfing, we enjoyed the sunshine, and we ate a lot of delicious food. Also, I will never throw away the presents from my friends, because they stand for our long-lasting friendship, and they make me think about the carefree days in school. So by keeping these old things, I can always **relive these wonderful moments**.

### **(20210815) Do you prefer to be taught by experienced teachers or new teachers?**

Experienced teachers:

They can teach better. Since they have many years on the job, they are very familiar with the **teaching methodologies as well as techniques**. They know what is difficult for students and they know how to make students learn efficiently. (For example, at the beginning of each class, they may **organize warm-up (or lead-in) activities**, so students can really feel they're ready to learn.)

They have more creative ways to **organize learning activities**. For example, when new teachers teach grammar, they just talk about the rules, which is very boring. But experienced teachers may **organize games**, or even use **role-plays** to help students better understand the grammatic rules.

New teachers:

New teachers are **creative**, so they can easily **think outside the box**. During their classes, they always keep coming up with new ideas to teach, such as using new technology or even games. So I think as a student, I will enjoy their lessons more.

New teachers are **fresh graduates**, they are more **passionate**, so they **have more fire in their desire to teach**. And during their classes, they will **communicate the passion** and keep me engaged.

**(20210714) A company has offered you a competitive salary but its business practice may be controversial. Would you like to work for this company? Explain why.**

Take the job: (Focus on **Money**)

I am just so **broke** (没钱, 囊中羞涩). I'm in so much **debt**. After graduating from the university, I **owe a lot of student loan**, so I really have to start making money fast and pay it back. Otherwise, I won't be able to **make ends meet**.

I can use the salaries to save for the **down payment** (分期付款的首期付款, 预付金, 定金) of my first house. I have to move out from my parents' place, so I really need to save up for a down payment and then for **mortgage** (按揭贷款) later on.

**(20210711) You are going to have an interview but the location is far from your place. Which do you prefer, travel the long distance to have the interview face-to-face or have the interview on the phone?**

Face-to-face:

Phone interview could be very **unreliable**. My cellphone may have bad reception, so I may be **breaking up**. As a result, the interviewers cannot hear me clearly, so I may not be able to get the job.

I can look at the interviewers' **body language**, especially their **facial expressions**. By looking at the facial expressions, I can see whether they are interested in what I'm talking about, so I can change topic or change tactics. As a result, these **nonverbal cues** can really help me succeed in the interview.

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***Technology-related questions:***

Good: save time; convenient (suit busy schedule).

Bad: not always reliable; can't see body languages.

**(20210620) In order to meet the requirement for graduation, you have to take one science course. Now you have two options. The first course requires you to take exams; the second one requires you to complete a lot of projects. Which do you prefer?**

I just **don't like exams**, they make me nervous. When I'm taking exams, sometimes my mind may go blank, I may forgot about what I have learned. So I think I prefer doing the projects instead of taking the exams.

It **gives me second chances**. If I didn't do well in one of the projects, I've always have the next one to make up. In this case, I can get better grades.

**(20210619) Some people prefer to do several tasks or projects together at the same time. Others prefer to work on one task or project at a time. Which way of working do you prefer and why?**

One project at a time:

I may **make a lot of mistakes** if I work on multiple projects simultaneously. I have to constantly **shift my attention** between those projects, so I may overlook some small details and make mistakes, such as typos.

Working on one project at a time is **less stressful**. If I have to **multitask**, I will be really **exhausted and overwhelmed**. As a result, I may put the project off, or even give it up.

**(20210609) Which one do you prefer: a leader who makes quick decisions without consulting others or a leader who asks for the opinions of other group members?**

Mixed feelings:

I think leaders should ask others' opinions when making decisions, because by asking others, the leader can see others' perspectives, which can help everyone **better understand the big picture**. So they can **make a more informed decision**.

Sometimes I think it is necessary to make a quick decision. For example, a leader wants to make an investment in the stock market for the company. If the leader asks around, the stock market may change, and the stock may become more expensive, so they may not be able to make much money.

**(20210526) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? It is not necessary to learn the local history of the city one is living in.**

Disagree:

Doing this can **answer so many of my questions**. I always wonder where the name of my city came from, and also I wonder how the city developed into such a big metropolis.

When I study abroad, my foreign friends will be curious about my hometown. So if I'm very knowledgeable about local history, I can become **a tour guide or an expert** to explain everything to them.

**If someone donates a piece of land to your community, should it be used to construct a playground for children or a garden to grow plant and flowers?**

Garden: (对谁好? 考虑不同对象)

This can **create a place for local residents to relax**. After dinner or during the weekends, they can walk in the garden and appreciate beautiful plants and flowers, such as red roses and yellow sunflowers, so they can easily forget about their troubles and stress.

It is also **beneficial for different animals**, because this garden can provide them with a place to live, a place to look for food. So in this case, they can actually enjoy their live as well in this garden.

**(20210508) Some people prefer a job dealing with different tasks, while others prefer a job dealing with tasks following the routine and predictable. Which do you prefer and why?**



Depends:

If I **just graduate from university**, I'd like a job that allows me to work on different types of tasks. Because by doing this, I can **learn different skills and be more well-rounded**. For example, I can learn how to communicate with customers when dealing with their complaints. I can also learn how to deliver a presentation effectively when I have to do a public speech.

However, if I **have a rich experience in the industry**, I prefer a job dealing with routine tasks. This allows me to **sharpen my skill and develop my expertise** in that field, so I can become the expert in the industry.

**(20220105) Some people think that parents should control how their children save and spend their money; others think that children should be free to spend their money as they wish. Which view do you agree with? Explain why.**

The latter:

This make children very happy, since **they can buy the things they long for**, such as the latest toy. So they can play the toy with their friends or their classmates, and have a lot of fun.

It is a great learning opportunity. They can learn how to **plan their finances**, how to **make a budget** (预算), and how to **stick to the budget by resisting different temptations**.

**(TPO72) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Friends should be able to disagree with each other and still maintain their friendship.**

Depends:

Most likely, although friends may have disagreement, they can still maintain their friendship. This is because they may **treat their disagreement as a learning opportunity**.

Hearing each other's perspective allows them to see the big picture, so it's something quite positive and it wouldn't damage their friendship.

However, if they have **disagreement on something serious**, such as about their religion, their political views or even their culture or identity, then I don't think they are able to maintain their friendship, because they just **lose their common grounds**.

**(TPO71) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The process of doing something is more important than the end result.**

Depends:

In college, I think the process is more important. The process will be **taking courses and learning different skills**. It is more important because these knowledge and skills can help me **find better jobs** in the future. The end result will be my grade for that course, which is not that important because the company would hire me based on the knowledge and skills I have.

But if I am at work, I think things are completely different. The end result will be more important, because **my promotion will be determined based on those end results**. If the project didn't end well, I have to take responsibility and may be demoted.

**(TPO68) Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? All workers should be required to stop working at the age of 65.**

Agree:

I think **they deserve a break**. This is because they have been working all their lives, so at the age of 65, **they should take some time off**. They should be able to do the things they like, such as travelling or spending time with family members. In this case, they can **have a more fulfilling life**.

They should retire because of their **health conditions**. Since they were getting older, they tend to get sick more frequently than before, so they may have to constantly **take time off from work**.