

GIỚI THIỆU

Cuốn sách này được biên soạn nhằm hỗ trợ các bạn học viên ôn thi VSTEP SPEAKING hiệu quả và cấp tốc. Nội dung được chất lọc từ những tài liệu hay, trình bày súc tích, ngắn gọn dễ hiểu.

Mọi góp ý về tài liệu nhằm nâng cao chất lượng tài liệu xin vui lòng liên hệ theo thông tin liên lạc sau:

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Chúc các bạn đạt kết quả cao!

TỔNG QUAN BÀI THI NÓI

Bài thi Vstep speaking bao gồm 3 phần như sau:

PART 1: SOCIAL INTERACTION (HỘI THOẠI XÃ HỘI)

- 2-3 phút
- Answer 3-6 questions about 2 familiar topics (Traveling, hobbies, friends, etc.) – Trả lời 3-6 câu hỏi về 2 chủ đề quen thuộc như Du lịch, sở thích, bạn bè v.v.).

PART 2: SOLUTION DISCUSSION (THẢO LUẬN GIẢI PHÁP)

- 3 minutes (1 minute to prepare and 2 minutes to deliver the speech – 1 phút chuẩn bị và 2 phút trình bày)
- Choose one of three solutions to the problem (chọn 1 trong 3 giải pháp)

PART 3: TOPIC DEVELOPMENT (PHÁT TRIỂN CHỦ ĐỀ)

- 4 minutes (1 minute to prepare and 3 minutes to deliver the speech - 1 phút chuẩn bị và 3 phút trình bày)
- Give your opinions on a given topic and answer some extended questions (trình bày ý kiến về 1 chủ đề và trả lời 1 số câu hỏi mở rộng chủ đề)

SAMPLE TEST

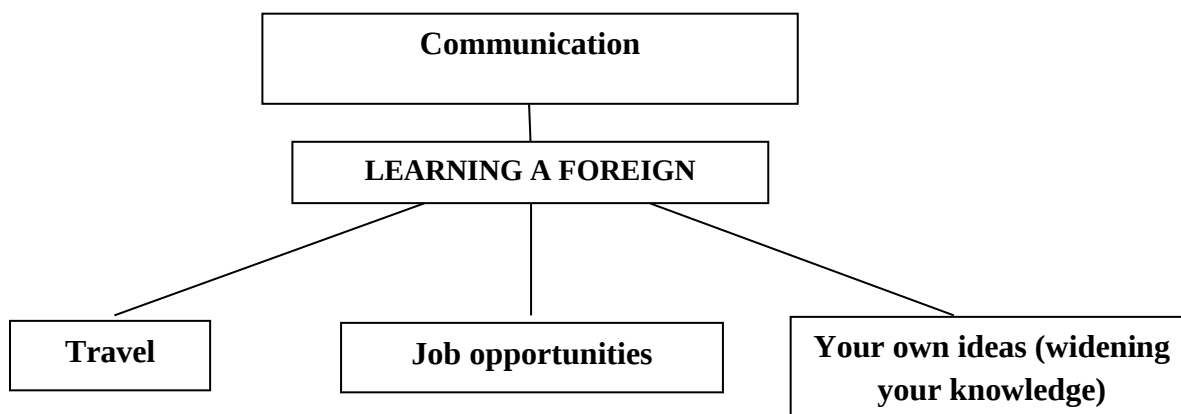
PART 1

- Can you tell me something about your family?
- Where do your family live?
- Who are you close to in your family?
- What do you do when you have a holiday?
- Where do you like to spend your holiday?
- Do you enjoy staying at home during the holiday?

PART 2

Your school asks for your opinion about wearing uniform. Which would you choose: wearing a uniform all week, wearing 2 days a week, or no uniform at all?

PART 3



USEFUL LANGUAGES FOR SPEAKING TEST(NGÔN NGỮ HỮU ÍCH CHO BÀI NÓI)

1. Common connective words (các từ nối)

Addition (Bổ sung)	Sequence (trình tự)	Consequence (Kết quả)	Contrast (tương phản)
In addition	first (đầu tiên)	As a result (vì vậy)	However
And similarly	initially (Ban đầu)	Thus	On the other hand (ngược

Likewise (Tương tự)	secondly (hai là)	So	lại)
As well as (cũng như)	To begin with (đầu tiên)	Therefore (vì vậy)	Despite/In spite of
Besides		Consequently (vì thế cho nên)	Though/Although
Furthermore	Then		But
Also	Next	Eventually (rốt cục là)	On the contrary (ngược lại)
Moreover	Earlier/Later	Then	
Not only... but also	After this/that		Otherwise (nếu không thì)
Besides this/that	Following this/that		Yet (tuy nhiên)
Certainly	Condition	Definition	Instead of (thay vì)
Obviously (dĩ nhiên là)	If	Refers to (chỉ điều gì)	Whereas (trong khi)
Certainly	Unless	Means (có nghĩa là)	In contrast (Ngược lại)
Of course	Whether (Liệu)	That is (điều đó có nghĩa là)	Nevertheless (Tuy nhiên)
Undoubtedly (rõ ràng là)	Provided that (Miễn là)	Consists of (bao gồm)	Alternatively (Một cách khác)
	So that (Để mà)		
	Depending on (tùy thuộc vào)		
Example	Reason	Time	Summary
For example	Since	Before	In conclusion (Nói tóm lại)
For instance (ví dụ)	Because	Since	In summary (tóm lại)
In particular (cụ thể là)	Due to (do..)	Until	Lastly/finally (cuối cùng)
One example (1 ví dụ)		Meanwhile (trong khi đó)	To sum up (cuối cùng)
Such as (như là)			To conclude (tóm lại)
			In short
Namely (ví dụ)	The reason why	Why	
		Whenever	
		As soon as	

2. Stalling (kéo dài thời gian suy nghĩ)

a. Asking question to be repeated:

- could you say that again, please?
- sorry, what was that?
- I'm afraid I didn't catch that

b. Hesitating linking words or phrases

- Well, to be honest (thực lòng mà nói)
- Actually (thực tế là)
- Let me see (hãy để tôi xem)
- You know (bạn biết đấy)
- That's an/a interesting/tough (khó) question. I suppose...
- I'm not really sure, but perhaps ...
- Well, it's a bit difficult for me to say, but I guess...

3. Expressing feeling (bộc lộ cảm xúc)

a. Negative feeling (tiêu cực)

- I'm afraid can't stand (tôi e là tôi không thể chịu đựng được)
- I absolutely hate ... It's horrible (tôi rất ghét... điều đó thật kinh khủng)
- I really don't like ...
- I'm not very keen on ... (tôi không thích..)

b. Positive feelings (tích cực)

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| - I love | - I absolutely adore | - I'm quite keen on |
| - I just adore | - I'm into doing something | - I'm fond of (tôi thích...) |

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PART 1 – SOCIAL INTERACTION

MỘT SỐ LƯU Ý KHI NÓI PHẦN GIAO TIẾP XÃ HỘI

1. Bắt đầu vào bài thi bạn hãy chủ động xin phép giới thiệu bản thân và nói ngắn gọn về tên, tuổi, nghề nghiệp.

- May I introduce myself? (Em xin phép được giới thiệu bản thân được không ạ)

2. Mở rộng ý khi nói, đừng chỉ trả lời ‘Yes’, hoặc ‘No’

- Do you read books?
- Yes, I do. I read book both for fun and for work. At work, I read a lot of documents. When I have free time, I also read my favourite novels.

3. Dùng các từ nối để liên kết ý với nhau để bài nói được logic

- Which season do you like the most?
- My favourite season is summer because I can eat my favourite ice-cream. Moreover, my family can go on holiday together when my children are of school.

4. Paraphrase (dùng từ ngữ khác) để trả lời câu hỏi, tránh dùng lại cấu trúc, từ vựng trong câu hỏi của giám khảo để được điểm cao hơn

- What do you often do in your free time?
- Well, there is no one thing I enjoy doing in my spare time. I have various interests. I love watching TV, listening to music and going shopping with friends at the weekend.

5. Dùng nhiều câu phức trong bài nói

Câu phức là câu có 2 mệnh đề. Ví dụ như khi bạn dùng với **although, because, since, while, whereas** (trong khi đó) hay các mệnh đề quan hệ với **who, which, that, where when...**

- Who are you close to in your family?
- Well, I get on very well with my mother. She always gives me good advice when I have problem in life. Besides, she's the person who I tell my secret to.

Luôn thân thiện và cởi mở trong suốt bài nói.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. Could you tell me your identification card/student card please? (Bạn có thể cho tôi xem chứng minh nhân dân của bạn không?)

Here you are.

2. Could you tell me your full name please? (họ và tên bạn là gì)

My full name is Nguyen Thu Thuy. People often call me Thuy.

Tên đầy đủ của tôi là Nguyễn Thu Thủy. Người ta thường gọi tôi là Thủy.

3. Does your name have any special meaning? (tên của bạn có ý nghĩa nào đặc biệt không?)

Like most Vietnamese name, my name also has a meaning. ‘Thuy’ means ‘water’ in Vietnamese.

Unlike most Vietnamese names, my name doesn’t have a meaning. I was named after a famous singer.

(Không giống phần lớn tên người Việt, tên tôi không có nghĩa. Tôi được đặt tên theo 1 ca sĩ nổi tiếng...

4. Why do many people change their names? (Tại sao nhiều người thay đổi tên của họ?)

In my opinion, some people want to change their names because they are not satisfied with theirs (không hài lòng với tên của họ). Or they want to make good impression on employers (tạo ấn tượng với nhà tuyển dụng) when they apply for a job. One more reason is that they love their idol so much that they want to change their name after their idols (đổi tên theo tên thần tượng). For example,

5. Is your name important to you? (tên của bạn có quan trọng với bạn không?)

Of course, my name is really important to me because it will be with me all life long (gắn bó với tôi suốt đời). Moreover, with a nice name, I might make better impression. (có thể tạo ấn tượng tốt).

2. HOMETOWN OR BIRTHPLACE

1. **Where do you come from?**
2. **Where do you live?**
3. **Can you tell me something about your home town?**
4. **Can you tell me some famous landscape or scenic spots in your hometown?**

1. Where do you come from? (bạn quê ở đâu?)

I'm from Hải Dương Province. It's about 80 km from Ha Noi. You know, my hometown is really famous for green bean cake (bánh đậu xanh) and a special type of lychee (nhãn lồng).

2. Where do you live? (Bạn sống ở đâu?)

Now I'm living and working in Ha Noi, the capital of Vietnam. Hanoi is both traditional and modern. It is famous for many places of interest such as Ha Noi old Quarter (phố cổ), French Quarter (phố Pháp), Hoan Kiem Lake, West Lake (Hồ Tây).

3. Can you tell me something about your hometown?

Certainly. You know, my hometown is Hai Duong. It is located about 80km from Hanoi. My hometown is well known for green bean cake and Thanh Ha lychee. My parents still live there. They live in a small village surrounded by the rice paddy field. People in my hometown are very friendly and hospitable. Now I live and work in Hanoi so I often come back there at the weekend about once a month to visit my parents and enjoy the fresh air.

(Quê tôi ở Hải Dương, cách Hà Nội khoảng 80km. Quê tôi nổi tiếng với món bánh đậu xanh và vải Thanh Hà. Bố mẹ tôi vẫn sống ở quê, trong một ngôi làng nhỏ xung quanh là cánh đồng lúa. Mọi người ở quê tôi rất thân thiện và hiếu khách. Bây giờ tôi sống và làm việc ở Hà Nội vì vậy tôi thường chỉ về quê được vào cuối tuần, khoảng 1 tháng 1 lần để thăm bố mẹ tôi và để có không khí trong lành.)

4. Can you tell me some famous landscapes or scenic spots in your hometown? (Bạn hãy kể về một vài danh lam thắng cảnh nổi tiếng ở quê bạn?)

- There are many places of interest in my hometown, for example, Con Son mountain and Kiep Bac Temple. It is located in Chi Linh district, Hai Duong. When I was a student, I used to go there with my classmates. Con Son – Kiep Bac complex is in the top 23 national historic heritages of Vietnam. These places remind us of the victory of Tran Dynasty against Mongolian conquerors in the 13th century and the two national heroes of Vietnam – Tran Hung Dao and Nguyen Trai.

(Quê tôi có nhiều danh lam thắng cảnh như là Côn Sơn – Kiếp Bạc. Quần thể di tích này ở huyện Chí Linh, Hải Dương. Thời sinh viên, tôi từng đến đó với lớp. Côn Sơn Kiếp Bạc nằm trong số 23 di tích cấp quốc gia. Đến đây, chúng gợi cho tôi nhớ đến chiến thắng oanh liệt của nhà Trần trước quân Nguyên Mông ở thế kỷ 13 và hai nhà anh hùng dân tộc Việt Nam là Trần Hưng Đạo và Nguyễn Trãi.)

3. HOBBY OR INCLINATION- SỞ THÍCH

Bạn có thể gặp những câu hỏi tương tự như:

1. **What do you usually do in your spare time?**
2. **Do you prefer to stay alone or with your friends?**
3. **What do you usually do on weekends and weekdays?**
4. **What do you usually do when you go out?**
5. **What do you usually do with your friends?**

Gợi ý trả lời:

1. What do you usually do in your spare time? (*Bạn thường làm gì vào thời gian rảnh rỗi?*)

- In my free time, I like watching movies and going out with my family and friends. (Khi rảnh rỗi, tôi thường xem phim và đi chơi với gia đình hoặc bạn bè.)

2. Do you prefer to live alone or with your friends? (*Bạn thích sống một mình hơn hay sống cùng bạn bè hơn?*)

- I don't like to live by myself because I feel lonely and especially I'm afraid of being ill while there's no one around me; so I prefer staying with my family and share with them everything in life. (Tôi không thích sống một mình bởi vì tôi cảm thấy cô đơn và đặc biệt là tôi sợ bị ốm khi mà không có ai bên cạnh. Vì vậy, tôi thích sống cùng với gia đình và chia sẻ với nhau mọi thứ trong cuộc sống.)

3. What do you usually do on weekends and weekdays? (*Bạn thường làm gì trong tuần và cuối tuần?*)

- I am rather busy during the week. I work from eight to five on weekdays so in the evening, I often cook dinner, stay at home and chat with my family members about what they have done during the day. I also teach my children to do their homework. At weekends, however, when I have free time, I often go out with friends or visit my relatives. Sometimes, my husband and I take our children to the cinema, the park or the zoo.

(Trong tuần thì tôi khá bận. Tôi làm việc từ 8 giờ sáng đến 5 giờ chiều các ngày trong tuần. Vì vậy, buổi tối trong tuần, tôi thường nấu nướng, ở nhà chơi và trò chuyện cùng gia đình về những việc đã làm trong ngày. Tôi cũng dạy con làm bài tập về nhà. Tuy nhiên cuối tuần tôi có nhiều thời gian rảnh rỗi để đi chơi với bạn hoặc thăm họ hàng. thỉnh thoảng hai vợ chồng tôi dẫn bọn trẻ đi xem phim, đi công viên hoặc sở thú.)

4. What do you usually do when you go out? (*Bạn thường làm gì khi đi chơi?*)

- When I am out, I often eat out with my family or go for a drink with friends. Sometimes, my family go to the park, go shopping and so on. (Khi đi chơi, tôi thường đi ăn cùng gia đình hoặc đi uống nước với bạn. Thỉnh thoảng, gia đình tôi đi công viên chơi, đi mua sắm...)

5. What do you usually do with your friends? (*Bạn thường làm gì cùng bạn bè?*)

- We often go to a café and chat about work, life, family and so on. Sometimes, we visit each other's home and several families enjoy meals together. (Chúng tôi thường đi cà phê và trò chuyện về công việc, cuộc sống và gia đình... Đôi lúc, chúng tôi đến nhà nhau chơi và một vài gia đình hẹn nhau ăn cơm.)

4. TRAVELING

1. Do you like travelling?

2. Do you like travelling alone or with your friends?

3. Have you travelled to other places? Where are they?

4. What do you usually do when you first arrive in a new place?

5. What are the benefits of traveling?

6. Why do so many people like traveling nowadays?

1. Do you like traveling? (bạn có thích đi du lịch không?)

Yes, I do. I like traveling to beautiful places in Vietnam and meeting new people. Now I'm saving some money and I hope I can afford a trip to Thailand or Singapore next year.

2. Do you like to travel alone or with friends?

I prefer traveling with my friends. Because it is more fun to go with friends and we can try new food and meet new people together.

3. Have you traveled to other places? Where are they?

Yes, I have. I've been to several destinations in Vietnam such as Halong Bay, Ninh Binh, Sapa. Of these places, I like Ha Long Bay the most because the scenery is breathtaking. Moreover, there are many activities for me to take part in such as going on a cruise on the Bay, visit caves and going to the beach. One more thing that I like about Halong is the fresh and delicious seafood.

4. What do you usually do when you first arrive in a new place?

It depends. If I go on a business trip, I will see what should do first on my working schedule. On holiday, on the other hand, I often look for places of interest to visit and special food in the area to try.

5. What are the benefits of traveling?

There are many advantages of traveling. First, travelling broaden your mind (mở mang đầu óc của bạn). When you travel, you learn many new things such as new culture and local people's way of life (phong cách sống). At the same time, you can visit many beautiful places and take part in interesting activities. Moreover, travelling helps you relax and it's a great time for you to be with your friends or family.

6. Why do so many people like traveling these days?

I think nowadays more and more people like traveling because it has many benefits. For example, it's a great chance for our family or friends to have fun together, discover new places, try new food, and meet new people. One important reason is that transportation has become much more convenient to travel.

5. FRIENDS

1. Do you have many friends? Are they casual acquaintance or close friends?

2. Do you prefer to stay with your family or with your friends?

3. Do you prefer one or two close friends or many friends?

4. Are your friends mostly your age or different ages?

5. Do you usually see your friends during the week or at the weekend?

6. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?

1. Do you have many friends? Are they casual acquaintance or close friends?

I have many friends but only some of them are close because I think we should have only several close friends to spend time and share everything with.

2. Do you prefer to stay with your family or with your friends?

I prefer to stay with my friends because then I have more freedom. I can do whatever I like. Moreover, staying with my friends helps me to learn better as we can share learning materials and discuss difficult questions. Finally, sometimes, it is easier to share with friends than with family.

3. Do you prefer one or two close friends or many friends?

I prefer to have just one or two close friends because if I have many close friends, I wouldn't have enough time to spend with them all. Having one or two close friends, I can easily share with them my secrets and happiness. Besides, we can get together and have interesting conversations more often.

4. Are your friends mostly your age or different ages?

Most of my friends are about my same age because we meet at school or university. I've got several friends who are older or younger than me as we met at work.

5. Do you usually see your friends during the week or at the weekend?

I tend to meet up with my friends at weekends because everyone's too busy during the week.

6. The last time you saw your friends, what did you do together?

It was one of my friends' birthday last weekend. Six of us went out for a meal to celebrate.

6. MUSIC

1. Do you like music?

2. What are the benefits of listening to music?

3. What kind of music do you best?

1. Do you like music?

Yes, I do. I like all kinds of music but I'm particularly interested in pop music and Rock Ballad. I like soft melody (giai điệu nhẹ nhàng).

2. What are the benefits of listening to music?

Listening to music has several advantages. Firstly, it helps you relax after long working hours. It then motivates you to work better. Moreover, music improves creativity. That's why pregnant women often let their inborn children listen to music.

3. What kind of music do you best?

I like pop music the best because I like soft and beautiful melody. It really helps me to relieve stress (giảm căng thẳng)

7. TRANSPORTATION

1. Can you say something about the transportation in your hometown?

2. What is the common means of transport in your country?

3. Do traffic jams often occur in your hometown or in the city where you live?

4. How to solve the problem?

5. What changes in transportation have taken place in the past several years in your country?

1. Can you say something about the transportation in your hometown?

In my opinion, one of the biggest problems of transportation is traffic jams in Ha Noi. It has become common to see passengers and drivers having to wait in long lines of buses and cars moving slowing on the street during the rush hours. There are several reasons for this problem. **First**, the number of vehicles is increasing much more rapidly than the building of roads. **Second**, there seem to be too many private cars and not enough public buses. **Third**, many people including drivers, pedestrians and cyclists do not obey traffic rules properly, especially at busy intersections.

2. What is the common means of transport in your country?

In Vietnam, motorbikes are the most popular means of transportation (phương tiện giao thông phổ biến). People can see motorbikes everywhere in Vietnam because it does not cost so much to buy one.

3. Do traffic jams often occur in your hometown or in the city where you live?

Traffic jams are among the biggest problems in Hanoi where I live now. Every day people get stuck in the traffic congestion. There are several reasons for that (kể các lý do trên)

4. How to solve the problem?

In my opinion, effective measures must be taken to solve the problem before things get worse. On the one hand, the government should invest more money in the building of new roads and repairing and maintenance of old ones, particularly those in busy areas of the cities. The number of private cars in urban areas should be limited while the number of public buses should be increased. At the same time, it is essential that stricter traffic rules and regulations be issued to strengthen traffic control.

5. What changes in transportation have taken place in the past several years in your country?

There are more buses in operation. At the same time, the number of cars has risen due to higher standard of living. Motorbikes, however, are still the most popular means of transportation because they don't cost a lot and it is very convenient to move in Ha noi.

8. CLOTHES AND FASHION

1. Are clothes and clothing fashion important to you? (Why/why not?)

2. What different clothes to you wear for different situations?

3. Do you wear different styles of clothes now compared to 10 years ago?

4. Do you think the clothes we wear say something about who we are?

1. Are clothes and clothing fashion important to you? (Why/why not?)

No, clothes and fashion are not important to me. I tend to wear clothes that are comfortable and practical rather than fashionable.

2. What different clothes to you wear for different situations?

Well, I have to dress quite formally for work, so I wear shirt and trousers. At home I prefer to wear comfortable clothes and I wear jeans and a T-shirt when I go out with friends. On special occasions, I might wear a suit (mặc 1 bộ vét).

3. Do you wear different styles of clothes now compared to 10 years ago?

No, not really, because I don't follow fashion (chạy theo mốt). I think I have dressed in a similar way for the last 10 years.

4. Do you think the clothes we wear say something about who we are?

Yes, they probably do. Some people are really careful about what they wear because they want to be seen as stylish. Other people wear clothes that show wealth or status (sự giàu có hay đẳng cấp), such as clothes by famous designers (quần áo bởi các nhà thiết kế nổi tiếng).

9. COMMUNICATION

1. How do you usually keep in touch with members of your family?

2. Do you prefer to speak to people by phone or by writing emails?

3. Do you ever write letter by hand? (why or why not?)

4. Is there anything you dislike about mobile phones?

1. How do you usually keep in touch with members of your family?

I mostly keep in touch with my family by phone, and I've started using the internet to make video call. I also try to visit member of my family in person as often as I can.

2. Do you prefer to speak to people by phone or by writing email?

It depends on the situation. I use email and text messages to communicate with friends, but my parents prefer it if I phone them.

3. Do you ever write letter by hand? (Why/why not?)

No, I don't write letter by hand because it's so much easy to send an email that will arrive immediately.

4. Is there anything you dislike about mobile phones?

Well, I don't like listening to people's conversation in public places, and I don't like it when someone's phone rings in the cinema or during a lesson.

10. READING

1. Do you like reading?

2. Do you usually read for leisure or for work purposes?

3. What was your favorite book or story when you were a child?

4. Do you think it's important that children read regularly?

1. Do you like reading?

Yes, I like reading a lot. I read all sorts of things, including novels, newspaper, magazines and online articles.

2. Do you usually read for leisure or for work purposes?

Well, I have to do a certain amount of reading as part of my job, but I probably read more for enjoyment. I pick up a newspaper almost every day and I usually have a book on the go.

3. What was your favorite book or story when you were a child?

The first book that I really enjoy as a kid was Doraemon. It only took me a few days to read because I liked it so much that I couldn't put it down (hay quá không thể bỏ nó xuống).

4. Do you think it's important that children read regularly?

Definitely. I think reading is possibly the most important skill that children learn. The ability to read opens the door to all aspects of education.

11. WORK

1. What's your job?

2. Do you enjoy your job?

3. What's the best thing about your job?

4. Do you prefer working alone or with others? Why?

1. What's your job?

I'm an accountant. I prepare and examine financial records. I ensure that financial records are accurate and that taxes are paid properly and on time.

2. Do you enjoy your job?

Yes, I really like my job. I'm rather good at numbers so I find interested in what I'm doing.

3. What's the best thing about your job?

The best thing about my job is that I am the first to know the financial status of the company and I can work with almost every department as I deal with payrolls (xử lý bảng lương).

4. Do you prefer working alone or with others? Why?

As for me, I would rather work with others. You know, how careful I am, I might make mistakes with numbers, group members can help me to check them sometimes.

12. MOVIES

1. Do you like watching movies?

2. What kind of movies do you like? Why?

3. Who's your favorite actor/actress?

4. Do you see film on TV, DVD or at the cinema?

5. Is there any film that you've seen for several times? What film?

6. Have you ever met a film actor or director?

1. Do you like watching movies?

Yes, I do. I like watching movies on TV or sometimes I go to the cinema with my friends at the weekend. Watching film really makes me relaxed after hardworking hours.

2. What kind of movies do you like? Why?

I'm interested in action movies, especially American ones. They involve a lot of thrilling actions. I enjoy watching all kinds of movies but I like romantic movies and comedies most because they make me laugh and I can forget stressful work.

3. Who's your favorite actor/actress?

I like Angelina Jolie because she looks beautiful and because of her excellent acting in the movie 'Mr & Mrs Smith'.

4. Do you see film on TV, DVD or at the cinema?

I rarely see film on DVDs as it is rather expensive. I have a cable TV which has a lot of channels, so I often watch movies on Star movies or HBO. Sometimes, I also watch movies on the internet especially those I miss watching on TV or some updated ones. At the weekend, I usually go to the cinema with my friends for a change (để thay đổi không khí) and it is great to watch movies on a very wide screen and have popcorn at the same time.

5. Is there any film that you've seen for several times? What film?

Definitely yes. Although I am not young any longer, I prefer to watch cartoon especially Tom & Jerry. I have a collection of this cartoon and often watch it again and again when I feel sad.

6. Have you ever met a film actor or director?

Actually I haven't met any film directors but some actors and actresses. As I'm living in Hanoi now, sometimes I come across actors and actresses (tình cờ gặp diễn viên) but I can't just remember their names.

13. SCHOOL – STUDY

- 1. What was your major at university?**
- 2. What were your favorite subjects at high school/secondary school/ primary school?**
- 3. What kind of secondary school did you go to?**
- 4. Did you like it? Why not?**
- 5. How much homework did you have?**
- 6. Did you have to wear uniform?**
- 7. Was the discipline very strict?**
- 8. Which subjects were you good and bad at?**

1. What was your major at university?

I graduated from the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in 2010. I major in tourism (tôi học chuyên ngành du lịch). Now I am doing a master degree (đang học thạc sĩ) at this university.

2. What were your favorite subjects at high school/secondary school/ primary school?

I couldn't remember which subject I like at primary school but I was interested in Literature at secondary school and high school. Maybe because I often got high marks for literature and I found it easy to write essays.

3. What kind of secondary school did you go to?

I study at Nguyen Van Huyen Secondary school in my hometown. It is a state school located about one kilometer from my house so I used to ride a bike to school every day.

4. Did you like it? Why not?

Yes, I did because it is rather near my house, just about one kilometer. Moreover, all my friends in my neighborhood studied at the same school, so we went to school and did exercises together. Finally, it is a rather big school with a large school yard where we used to play.

5. How much homework did you have?

I didn't have as much homework as students do nowadays because at that time we went to school in the morning only and had the whole afternoon and evening free to do homework. I didn't go to any extra classes but did exercises in the textbooks. I normally spend about an hour or two finishing all homework a day.

6. Did you have to wear uniform?

No, I didn't. Luckily, when I was in school, I didn't have to wear a uniform. I hate wearing the same clothes every day. They are made for every student so they do not fit everyone.

Yes, I did. We had to wear dark trousers and white shirt every day. Girls, however, had to wear traditional 'Ao dai' on Monday. They look really pretty in that. I think wearing a uniform was great because I did not have to worry about what to wear every day. Moreover, there's no difference between poor and rich students, you know.

7. Was the discipline very strict?

Yes, it was. While I was at school, the discipline was very strict. We had to go to school on time and did all homework before going to class. Those who didn't follow the regulations were punished seriously (bị phạt nặng).

8. Which subjects were you good and bad at?

Well, I like social science subjects such as Literature (văn học) and History and rather good at them. I was very bad at Maths. It took me too much time to solve math problem (giải bài tập toán).

14. RESTAURANT

- 1. What do you usually have for breakfast?**
- 2. How many cups of coffee do you drink a day?**
- 3. Where do you usually have lunch?**
- 4. How often do you eat out?**
- 5. What restaurant do you often go to?**
- 6. What kind of food does it serve?**
- 7. Do you prefer eating at home or eating out?**
- 8. Do you take any vitamin or food supplement at the moment?**
- 9. Do you try to eat healthily at the moment?**

1. What do you usually have for breakfast?

I usually eat sticky rice, bread for breakfast. Sometimes I have Pho – traditional rice noodle soup for a change. Occasionally, when I get up too late and I don't have enough time for breakfast, so I just skip it (bỏ bữa sáng).

2. How many cups of coffee do you drink a day?

I drink about one or two cups of coffee a day, normally at breakfast or when I am at work. I am trying to give it up because it is harmful for my health. (có hại cho sức khỏe của tôi)

3. Where do you usually have lunch?

In the morning, I often get up early to prepare a lunchbox so I have lunch in the office. Sometimes I go out for lunch with my colleagues for a change. In that case, we often enjoy Pho or rice noodle together. I often have lunch in a food stalls/restaurant near my company. It serves rice and a variety of traditional food such as pork, chicken, beef and vegetables. From time to time, my colleagues and I order pizza or takeaway food to our office.

4. How often do you eat out?

We don't go to restaurant very often as we cook at home. Therefore, we often eat out just about once or twice a month at the weekend when all the family members are free or we get together with friends. We prefer to try new food in different restaurants each time for example Korean, Japanese or traditional Vietnamese from other regions in Vietnam like Hue, Saigon, Hoi An...

5. What restaurant do you often go to?

We like trying new food in different restaurants each time we eat out but my favorite one is Sen restaurant because I prefer Vietnamese food and a variety of traditional Vietnamese food is served there such as spring rolls. Moreover, the food is delicious and the staff is very friendly as well.

6. What kind of food does it serve?

It serves all kinds of traditional Vietnamese food such as spring rolls, fish fillets, chicken, beef, and seafood.

7. Do you prefer eating at home or eating out?

I would rather eat at home than eat out because eating at home is clean and safe. Moreover, it is great for family members to cook and have meal together. However, sometimes, I would prefer to eat out on special occasions such as a birthday party so that we can save time as we don't have to prepare or do the washing (chuẩn bị và rửa chén bát).

8. Do you take any vitamin or food supplement at the moment?

No, I'm not. We have a rather nutritious and balanced diet at home. We often eat a lot of vegetables, some kinds of meat such as pork, beef and chicken. Therefore we don't need to take any vitamins or food supplement (thực phẩm bổ sung).

9. Do you try to eat healthily at the moment?

No, I'm not. I just eat what I like. I prefer meat so I eat a lot of it and I'm still in a very good health condition.

Yes, I am. I sometimes get ill so besides doing exercises in the morning. I pay much attention to a healthy diet (chú ý nhiều đến 1 chế độ ăn uống khỏe mạnh). I often force myself to eat a lot of vegetables (ép mình ăn nhiều rau), drink plenty of water and have less high fat food.

15. FAMILY

- 1. Are you married or single? If not, what kind of person would you like to marry?**
- 2. What's your father like?**
- 3. What's your mother like?**
- 4. Do you have brothers and sister? Are they older than you?**
- 5. Do you live alone? Who do you live with?**
- 6. Who do you respect the most in your family?**
- 7. Who has had the most influence in your life?**
- 8. How many people are there in your family?**
- 9. Who do you get on well in your family?**
- 10. Do you ever argue with someone in your family? What do you argue about?**

- 1. Are you married or single? If not, what kind of person would you like to marry?**

I am married and I have two children, a son and a daughter.

I am still single but not available. I've got a boyfriend/girlfriend. We are getting married this year.

- 2. What's your father like?**

My father is determined and humorous (kiên định và hài hước). We can never change his mind once he has decided to do something (một khi ông ấy đã quyết định làm gì). He often tells us jokes which make us laugh.

- 3. What's your mother like?**

My mother is a caring and understanding person. She takes good care of my family and whenever I have problem, I always share with her because she often listen to my problem and gives me very good advice.

- 4. Do you have brothers and sister? Are they older than you?**

I have two brothers. My older brother is married and has a daughter so U have a niece. He lives with my parents in my hometown. My younger brother is 26 years old. He now lives and works in Hanoi. We sometimes meet each other at weekends.

- 5. Do you live alone? Who do you live with?**

No, I don't. I live with my family on Yen Hoa Street. I've been living in this area since I got married.

6. Who do you respect the most in your family?

In my family, I respect my mother the most because she has been taking care of me since I was little. She is also very understanding. I always come to her whenever I have any problems. She is really my idol and I want to become a person like her.

In my family, I respect my father most because he taught me how to live well and always gives me advice.

7. Who has had the most influence in your life?

My father has had the most influence in my life. It is my father who is strictly taught me valuable lessons in life and always stands by my side whenever I have any trouble. He really set a really good example (nêu 1 tấm gương tốt) for us to follow.

8. How many people are there in your family?

There are 4 people in my family: my husband, my two children and me. My son is 7 years old and he is in second grade. My little daughter is three years old. She goes to Sunflower kindergarten.

9. Who do you get on well in your family?

I love everyone in my family but I get on very well with my mother. I often share with her everything or when I have trouble, I often ask her for advice. We understand each other very well.

10. Do you ever argue with someone in your family? What do you argue about?

Yes, I do. My husband and I sometimes have an argument about what TV program to watch. I like watching films while he prefers to watch sports programs. Now and then, we argue about how to teach our children. He often says I am spoiling my children (làm hư hỏng con cái). My husband, on the other hand (ngược lại), is very strict to them (ng nghiêm khắc với chúng).

16. WEATHER

1. Would you like to live where there is desert and hot weather?

2. Would you like to live where there is always snow?

3. Which do you like better: hot weather or cold weather?

4. What month gets the most rain in your country?

5. Do you think weather affects the way people feel?

6. How do you depend on the weather report on TV?

1. Would you like to live where there is desert and hot weather?

No, I wouldn't, it's too hot for me to live in such places. I can't stand the heat and it's difficult to make a living (kiếm sống) I think.

2. Would you like to live where there is always snow?

No, I wouldn't. I don't want to live in such harsh weather. Moreover, I'm easy to catch a cold. However, it would be fine if I live in Korea because it snows only in winter..

3. Which do you like better: hot weather or cold weather?

I like hot weather better because in the summer I can go swimming and I often have very long holiday so that I can go to the beach with my family.

I prefer cold weather because in winter I can wear winter clothes which makes me look more beautiful.

4. What month gets the most rain in your country?

July or August (the seventh month of Lunar New Year: tháng thứ 7 của âm lịch) gets the most rain in Vietnam. We even have a legend Sơn Tinh – Thủy Tinh to explain it.

5. Do you think weather affects the way people feel?

Definitely. When it is sunny and nice, people tend to feel happy. On the contrary (ngược lại), we feel blue or sad when it is cloudy.

6. How do you depend on the weather report on TV?

In fact, I don't watch the weather report on TV because I haven't got a TV set at home. I would rather see what the weather will be like that day online while I read news online.

PART 2: SOLUTION DISCUSSION (THẢO LUẬN GIẢI PHÁP)

Trước khi nói, hãy tìm ý trong 1 phút

- Chọn nhanh 1 lựa chọn nào mà bản thân cảm thấy dễ nói nhất (có nhiều từ vựng để nói nhất, không nhất thiết phải là lựa chọn mà bạn thích).
- Tìm ít nhất 2 lợi ích/lý do bạn chọn và nhược điểm của 2 lựa chọn còn lại.

Trong khi nói, trình bày bài nói thành 3 phần

- Phần 1: Mở bài: giới thiệu tình huống với 3 lựa chọn. Nếu có thể, paraphrase (sử dụng từ ngữ khác) để diễn đạt tình huống. Trình bày ý kiến chọn giải pháp nào.
- Phần 2: Thân bài: Nêu lần lượt 2 lợi ích và so sánh, đối chiếu với 2 lựa chọn còn lại.
- Phần 3: Kết bài: Tóm tắt lại ý mình chọn. Giữa các phần cần sử dụng các từ nối ý phù hợp, không phải đơn thuần liệt kê ý.

TEST 1

What are you going to do in the summer? Learning a language course; doing voluntary work or learning to play a sport. Which do you think the best choice?

Hints:

- Learning a language course: (học 1 khóa ngôn ngữ)

- + Get B1 certificate for graduation (lấy chứng chỉ B1 để tốt nghiệp)
- + Improve English to have better job opportunities. (Cải thiện tiếng Anh để có cơ hội việc làm tốt hơn)

- Doing voluntary work (đi tình nguyện)

- + Help local community (giúp đỡ cộng đồng)
- + Make friends (kết bạn)

- Learning to play a sport (Học chơi 1 môn thể thao)

- + Get in better shape (giữ thân hình khỏe mạnh)
- + Improve your health (cải thiện sức khỏe)

The summer is coming soon and people are wondering what they should do in the upcoming time: learning a language course, doing voluntary work or learning to play a sport. In my opinion, attending an English course is the best option because of the following reasons

Firstly, it is required for all students to have B1 certificate before graduation at my university. It means that in order to graduate from university, we need to have B1 level of English. Taking an English course

helps me to better prepare for the test. **Secondly**, learning English enables me to have better job opportunities. You know, English is necessary in our modern business world. Knowing English means that you can find a job more easily and especially one with higher salary.

Regarding the other two options, I know that many of my friends opt to do voluntary work because it's a great way to help community and it offers a chance to make new friends. However, as for me, learning is more important at this time. Taking up a sport isn't my choice, either because I go for a walk every day, which helps me to get in better shape and improve my health. There is no need to learn a new one. **In short**, learning a language course is my final decision.

TEST 2

A group of students are discussing where to buy clothes: in a shop, in an open air market or in an online shop. Which do you think the best choice?

Hints:

- **Buying clothes in an open air market** ((mua quần áo ở chợ trời)

+ A wide range of clothes (nhiều lựa chọn)

+ Cheap (rẻ)

- **Buying clothes in a shop** (mua quần áo trong cửa hàng)

+ a limited number of clothes (hạn chế số lượng)

+ only a few styles (chỉ có vài kiểu)

+ expensive (đắt)

- **Buying clothes in an online shopping** (mua quần áo trên mạng)

+ cannot try on clothes (không thử được)

+ not real pictures of clothes online (hình ảnh trên mạng không mang tính chân thực)

A group of students are discussing where to buy clothes. There are three possible options: in a shop, in an open air market or in an online shop. In my opinion, buying clothes in an open air market is the best choice for the following reasons

Firstly, there is a wide range of clothes in the open air market as there are many different shops selling various kinds of clothes. **Secondly**, clothes in the open air market are normally cheaper than those in a shop.

I don't opt to buy (chọn mua) clothes in a shop because, you know, each shop has a limited number of clothes. Moreover, it offers only a few styles, for example, men's, women's, kids'. Besides, clothes on

sale are rather expensive. Similarly, buying clothes in an online shop isn't my interest. I have to admit that more and more people buy clothes in an online shop nowadays because of the low cost and a wide selection of clothes. However, I don't like online shopping especially for clothes because I cannot try on them so it's difficult to know whether they fit me or not. Besides, all clothes online look really nice thanks possibly to photoshop. As a result, they might look really ugly when I bring them home. **In short**, I would prefer to buy clothes in an open air market.

TEST 3

A first year student is going to choose where to live: living in the university hostel (ký túc xá), renting a flat or staying with the relatives. Which do you think is the best choice?

Hints:

- **Living in the university hostel** (sống trong ký túc xá sinh viên)

+ Cheap

+ Convenient: close to university, easy to share learning materials or discuss with roommates (tiện lợi: gần trường, dễ dàng chia sẻ tài liệu học tập hoặc thảo luận với bạn cùng phòng)

- **Renting a flat** (thuê 1 căn hộ)

+ Costly (tốn kém)

- **Staying with a relatives** (ở cùng họ hàng)

+ not comfortable (không thoải mái)

+ do housework (làm việc nhà)

A first year student is going to choose where to live: living in the university hostel (ký túc xá), renting a flat or staying with the relatives. In my opinion, if I were in the situation, I would opt to live in a university hostel for the following reasons.

Firstly, it is very cheap to stay there. A freshman would have to pay tuition fee (học phí) and a lot of other cost such as food, books, etc. Living in a university hostel would save him or her a lot of money.

Secondly, I find it very convenient to stay in a hostel because it is often close to university so he or she can walk to school. Then it does not cost any to buy bus ticket or gas. Moreover, it is easy to share learning materials or discuss with roommates. Living in a university hostel, you normally share a room with about a few people from the same university. Therefore, whenever, there is a question you can easily ask them for advice or discuss to solve the problem.

I don't choose to rent a flat because it is costly to do so. Regarding staying with the relatives, I think it is not so comfortable. Moreover, they might live far away from university or we have to do housework.

In short, living in a university hostel is the best option for a first year student.

TEST 4

If you won a lottery of 1 billion VND, what would you do: buying a house, buying gold or saving in the bank? Which do you think is the best choice?

- **Buying a house** (mua nhà)

+ Need a house to live in (cần có 1 ngôi nhà để ở)

- **Buying gold** (mua vàng)

+ price goes up and down (giá biến động)

+ not safe to keep (cất giữ không an toàn)

- **Saving in the bank** (gửi tiết kiệm)

+ low interest rate (tỷ giá thấp)

+ money loses its value (đồng tiền mất giá)

If I won a lottery of 1 billion VND, I would definitely buy a flat because at the moment I have to pay rent.

Well, there is a saying that a rolling stone gather no moss (không an cư thì không lạc nghiệp). I think it's true that a stable accommodation would lead to a stable job. I know that with 1 billion VND, I can only afford a flat far from a city centre so I would obtain a loan from the bank or borrow some money from family and friends.

I don't choose to buy gold because you know, the price goes up and down and with 1 billion VND, I will be able to buy a lot of gold. **Then**, I would be worried about where to keep it. Regarding saving in the bank, I think it isn't a good idea for me to do so because right now the interest rate is very low – just about 6% a year. Moreover, money will lose its value when we keep it in the bank because of inflation.

In short, I would opt to buy a house if I were in the situation.

TEST 5

You have a young brother who is a talented student. Which high school would you choose for him: a school abroad in Australia, a public school near your home; or a gifted school far from home.

Hints:

- **A public school near your home** (1 trường công gần nhà)

+ Live with family and be taken care of (sống cùng gia đình và được chăm sóc)

- + low cost (chi phí thấp)
- **A gifted school far from home** (trường chuyên xa nhà)
- + Offer better education (có điều kiện học tập tốt)
- + Too far (quá xa)
- **A school abroad in Australia** (du học nước ngoài ở Úc)
- + Too far away from home, homesick (xa nhà, nhớ nhà)
- + Face culture shock (đối mặt với cú sốc văn hóa)

My younger brother who is a young talented student is deciding on which high school to go to: a school abroad in Australia, a public school near your home; or a gifted school far from home. In my opinion, a state school near my home is the best option because of the following reasons.

Firstly, he can still live with my family. Therefore, he can be well taken care of. On the contrary, attending a school abroad or a gifted school far away from home in Vietnam, he has to live on his own and can't see his family often, so he might feel homesick. Besides, living in another country is often quite challenging for a young person like him. For example, he has to learn a new language which is rather difficult or encountering culture shock. **Secondly**, as he lives at home, my family does not have to pay for his rent or other living cost. I have to admit that a school overseas or a gifted school will offer better courses. As a result, he will have more job opportunities with higher salary. However, the ultimate goal of studying is to be able to get a good job. This can still be achieved by going to a public school near my home because it can still provide good knowledge and skills to prepare him for university entrance exam.

In my view, wherever he studies, it is himself who decides what he can learn, so I think, the public school close to my house is best choice for him.

TEST 6

You want to improve your English speaking skills. There are three options for you: joining an English club, joining a class at an English center, or talking to foreigners in public places.

Hints:

- **Joining an English class at center.**
- + A structure course with real life situations (một khóa học được thiết kế với tình huống thực tế khác nhau)
- + Instructed by experienced teachers (được giáo viên có nhiều kinh nghiệm hướng dẫn)

+ great fun (vui vẻ)

- Joining an English club

+ Noisy (ồn ào)

+ no one checks your speaking (không ai kiểm tra kỹ năng nói)

- Talking to foreigners in public places

+ Limited time and speaking topics (hạn chế thời gian và đề tài nói)

I want to improve my English speaking skills. As for us, we can choose among three options: joining an English at an English center, or talking to foreigners in public places. In my opinion, taking an English course is the best choice because of the following reasons.

Firstly, a course in an English center is often well structured with different real life situations.

Therefore, I can take part in many speaking activities and more importantly, these situations are common in our lives. Moreover, a course is always instructed by an experience teacher who knows which materials are the best for his/her students. **Besides**, he or she can correct student's mistakes if there are any. On the other hand, nobody checks your work while you participate in a club and it is often so noisy that you hardly hear what other people are saying. I do not opt to talk to foreigners in public places because you know, they are normally busy sightseeing and some of them are not willing to speak to us. Even when they are, you can only spend a few minutes chatting on very limited topics like the weather, job and so on.

In short, taking an English course is the best option for me.

TEST 7

Your school asks for your opinion about wearing uniform. Which would you choose: wearing uniforms all week, wearing uniforms 2 days a week, or no uniform at all?

Hints

- Advantages of wearing uniforms (lợi ích của việc mặc đồng phục)

+ Benefits students who cannot afford to buy expensive or fashionable clothes (có lợi cho sinh viên không đủ tiền mua áo quần hoặc thời trang đắt tiền)

+ No gap between the rich and the poor (không có khoảng cách giữa người giàu và nghèo)

+ Not think of what to wear or how to combine clothes (không phải nghĩ mặc gì hay kết hợp quần áo ra sao)

- Advantages of not wearing uniforms (lợi ích của việc không mặc đồng phục)

- + Have own choice of clothes to wear (được quyền lựa chọn quần áo riêng)
- + Show your personality, demonstrate your sense of style of fashion (thể hiện cá tính, và gu thời trang)

My school asks us for our opinion about wearing uniform. There are three possible options wearing uniforms all week, wearing uniform 2 days a week, or no uniform at all. In my opinion, I would opt to wear uniforms two days a week so that I can take advantages of both wearing uniforms and no uniform at all.

Firstly, wearing uniforms benefits students who cannot afford to buy expensive and fashionable clothes. As all people dress the same way, there will be no gap between the the poor and the rich so that poor students will feel more confident. Moreover, when we wear uniform we do not have to think of what to wear or how to combine different clothes before getting to school. **Lastly**, uniforms are a form of school unity. They tell other people what school you belong to. Regarding the advantages of not wearing uniform, well, you still have your own choice of clothes which reflect your own taste as people often say the way we dress often reveal who we are.

In conclusion, it's great for students to have a balance between wearing uniforms and having their own style of clothes.

PART 3 – TOPIC DEVELOPMENT

Vstep speaking phần 3 kéo dài trong 5 phút bao gồm 2 phần. Phần 1: giám khảo phát cho thí sinh 1 chủ đề với 3 gợi ý cho sẵn và thí sinh được chuẩn bị 1 phút trước khi trình bày 2-3 phút. Sau đó giám khảo hỏi thí sinh một vài câu hỏi liên quan đến chủ đề (phần này thí sinh không nhìn thấy câu hỏi)

Ví dụ:

Reading habit should be encouraged among teenagers.

- reduces stress
- increases knowledge
- improves memory
- your own idea

Một số câu hỏi thêm của giám khảo

- What is the difference between the kinds of books read by your parents' generation and those read by your generation?
- Do you think that governments should support free books for all people?
- In what way can parents help children develop their interest in reading?

Nếu như chủ đề nêu lợi ích thì câu hỏi mở rộng thường hỏi về bất lợi và ngược lại; nếu chủ đề nêu vấn đề thì câu hỏi thêm sẽ thường về hệ quả và giải pháp.

1. ONLINE LEARNING

Online learning is beneficial to students.

Online learning

- **Flexible (linh hoạt)**
- **Affordable (tiết kiệm chi phí)**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- online learning = study online = learning/studying on the internet.
- learners = students
- to get/have access to: truy cập
- to engage students = make students involved in lessons: thu hút sinh viên vào bài học.
- to be affordable (có thể chi trả được) = at low/cheaper cost (chi phí rẻ) = at no charge (không mất phí) = free of charge (miễn phí)

Bài mẫu

Nowadays learning on the internet has become increasingly popular because of its great benefits, especially to students.

In the first place, online learning is very convenient. You know, students can learn whenever and wherever they want. Only with a mobile phone or a computer connected to the internet can students get access to a rich source of information on almost any subject.

Secondly, it is very affordable to study online. Well, students can do research using online resources at very low cost or even at no charge. Many websites provides free access to an abundant source of information while others offer online courses at a very low cost which might be just a part of traditional course.

Moreover, because students can study at their own place, they can save time and money to travel to traditional classes.

Last but not least, online courses are more interesting thanks to the application of technology. It is true that technology is a powerful tool to engage students. It can make students more involved in the lessons due to the combination of sounds, images, games etc.

In conclusion, studying on the internet brings considerable benefits to learners.

2. LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Living in the countryside has many advantages.

- fresh air
- friendly neighbors
- low cost
- [your own ideas]

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- country life >< city life
- in the countryside = in rural/ remote areas
- advantages = benefits
- to be beneficial: có ích
- to benefit from: thu được lợi ích từ việc gì.

Bài mẫu

Country life has several benefits. **In the first place**, people living in the countryside are very friendly and hospitable. Neighbours tend to be very helpful and they often get on well with one another. For example, I live in a peaceful village where all people know each other. We even organize some parties from time to time or come over each other's house. **Secondly**, people living in rural areas can benefit from cheap cost. You know, there aren't many things they have to spend on. People often have a large garden where they grow their own vegetables and raise chicken or pigs for food. Moreover, they pay lower fees for all products and services. **Finally**, people in the countryside can enjoy the fresh air. As you know, the countryside has a low concentration of factories and traffic, which is the main cause of air pollution. Also, the more trees and rice field contribute to the fresh air. **In conclusion**, it is very beneficial to live in the countryside.

3. LIVING IN THE CITY

There are some benefits of living in the city.

- **more chances for good jobs**
- **better education**
- **higher quality of health care service**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- living in the city = city life = living in urban areas
- advantages = benefits = plus points
- to benefit from: thu được lợi ích từ việc gì
- to have a higher standard of living: có mức sống cao hơn
- to have better job/ employment opportunities: có cơ hội nghề nghiệp tốt hơn

Bài mẫu

City life offers many advantages. **In the first place**, people in urban areas can have higher standard of living. People living in cities can be provided with higher quality health care service simply because central hospitals equipped with modern technologies and employing highly qualified doctors are often in cities rather than the countryside. Besides, there are more entertainment facilities in big cities, for example, cinemas, theme parks, shopping centres and so on, which make city life more attractive and comfortable. **Secondly**, people living in urban areas can have more employment opportunities with much higher salaries. You know, more factories and big companies which offer well paid jobs are located in big cities. It means that people find it easier to look for work. **Last but not least**, people living in urban areas can benefit from better education. The education system from kindergartens to universities in cities is far better than that in rural areas because a great deal of money is invested in modernizing facilities and recruiting excellent teachers. Besides, you know, there are more top colleges and universities in cities. **In a nutshell**, living in the city brings people many plus points

4. INTERNET

Internet is a good source to collect information.

- easy access (dễ truy cập)
- rich information (giàu thông tin)
- low cost (chi phí thấp)
- [Your own ideas]

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- to get/ have access to: truy cập
- to collect/ obtain/ gather information: thu thập thông tin
- information = data
- to be affordable (có thể chi trả được) = free = at low cost (chi phí thấp)

Bài mẫu

Nowadays learning on the Internet has become increasingly popular because of its great benefits, especially to students.

In the first place, online learning is very convenient. You know, students can study whenever and wherever they want. Only with a mobile phone or a computer connected to the Internet, can students get access to a rich source of information on almost any subject.

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Last but not least, online courses are more interesting thanks to the application of technology. It's true that technology is a powerful tool to engage students. It can make students more involved in the lessons due to the combination of sounds, images, games and so on.

In conclusion, studying on the Internet brings considerable benefits to learners.

5. TAKING PHOTOS

Taking photos is beneficial to people.

- Save memories
- Reduce stress
- Improve imagination -
- [Your own ideas]

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- to take photos = to take pictures = to photograph: chụp ảnh
- to enable = to allow = to help sb V: cho phép, giúp ai làm gì
- to come up with new ideas: nghĩ ra ý tưởng mới

Bài mẫu

Taking pictures brings people many advantages. **In the first place**, photos help save our sweet memories. You know, while we are on holiday or on special occasions, we often take lots of photos so that they can keep our unforgettable moments in life forever so it's true that images document our journey through life. **Secondly**, for those who are interested in photography, it can certainly be beneficial in reducing stress. For example, I have a friend who loves photographing. He often spends time taking photos of landscapes and people at the weekend and says it definitely enables him to relax after hard working days. **Finally**, photography allows people to improve imagination. In fact, pictures let us come up with new ideas and make us more creative. **In short**, photos shooting has many benefits.

6. WATCHING FILMS IN THE CINEMA

There are some advantages of watching films in the cinema.

- **good sound quality**
- **large screen**
- **chance to gather friends/relatives**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- People who watch films in the cinema = cinema goers: người đi xem phim
- films = movies
- to meet up with friends: gặp gỡ bạn bè

Bài mẫu

Watching films in the cinema offers several benefits as follows. **In the first place**, cinema goers can watch movies with better sound quality and on larger screens. It's true that cinemas are often well equipped with the most modern projectors and loudspeakers which not everyone can afford at home. Therefore, images and sounds are undeniably in higher quality, which make people feel much more interested in the films. **Another advantage of watching movies** in the cinema is that it is a great chance for people to meet up with their friends and relatives. Well, after a hard working week, we are able to enjoy a pleasant atmosphere with popcorn and some favourite drinks with our friends. **Last but not least**, it is possible to watch the latest movies which are not shown on TV or elsewhere or might be on TV much later. Besides, movies at the cinema are often well chosen and masterpieces of cinematography. **Overall**, watching movies in the cinema is beneficial and it's worth spending time there.

7. HEALTHY BREAKFAST

A healthy breakfast is the best meal for your health.

- **healthy body**
- **good work/study concentration**
- **disease prevention.**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích:

- a healthy/ proper/ good breakfast: Một bữa sáng khỏe mạnh
- prevention is better than cure: phòng bệnh hơn chữa bệnh
- ‘Eat breakfast like a King, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper’: Ăn sáng như một nhà vua, ăn trưa như một hoàng tử, ăn tối như một kẻ ăn mày (câu trích dẫn của Adelle Davis)
- Pauper: /'pɔ:pə(r)/: kẻ ăn mày
- to keep our mind alert: giúp tâm trí tỉnh táo
- to improve memory and concentration levels: tăng khả năng ghi nhớ và mức độ tập trung
- to concentrate on = to focus on: tập trung vào việc gì

Bài mẫu:

A healthy breakfast is the best meal for your health because of several reasons. **In the first place**, it helps us to have a healthy body. I mean that a balanced meal for breakfast would provide us with enough energy for the morning. Moreover, when having breakfast, we are less likely (ít có khả năng hơn) to have fatty or junk snacks (ăn đồ ăn béo và thức ăn không có lợi cho sức khỏe) midmorning. As advised by Adelle Davis, we should ‘eat breakfast like a King, lunch like a prince and dinner like a pauper’. The saying stresses the importance (nhấn mạnh tầm quan trọng) of breakfast in maintaining people’s health (duy trì sức khỏe). **Another benefit of a healthy breakfast** is that it allows us to concentrate on our work or study better. Many studies show that breakfast can improve memory and concentration levels. Without a doubt, a proper breakfast with high calories keeps our mind alert throughout the day. As a result, we tend to work more efficiently than when we skip breakfast. **Last but not least**, good breakfast enables us to prevent diseases. As mentioned earlier, a proper breakfast ensures a healthy body. Accordingly, it can help boost our immune system (tăng miễn dịch). You know, ‘prevention is better than cure, so it’s true that eating healthy breakfast everyday, we can stay

away from diseases. **In a nutshell**, breakfast is the best meal for your health and the most important meal of the day.

8. VIETNAM AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

Vietnam is a famous destination for foreigners.

- **a lot of tourist sites**
- **friendly people**
- **delicious food**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- a tourist site = a tourist destination
 - a must see destination: điểm đến hấp dẫn nên đến thăm
 - to meet the need: đáp ứng nhu cầu
- foreigners = foreign visitors

Bài mẫu

Vietnam is a wellknown destination for foreigners because of the following reasons. **First and foremost**, Vietnam has many tourist sites which meet the needs of different visitors. For example, those who love beach holidays can enjoy beautiful beaches in Central and Southern Vietnam such as Da Nang, Hoi An, Nha Trang, Mui Ne. Mountain lovers can explore spectacular mountainous areas in Northern Vietnam with the rice terraces, forests, national parks and so on and take part in many activities like hiking, cycling. **Another factor attracting foreign tourists to Vietnam** is Vietnamese are friendly and hospitable. Wherever they go, visitors can be welcomed by cozy smiles of local people and always be impressed by how helpful local people are. **Last but not least**, Vietnam is famous for delicious food. Some Vietnamese dishes like Pho, Bun Cha, Banh Mi have their names memorized in travel guidebooks. Besides, there are many other traditional dishes that tourists can taste, for instance, spring rolls. **In a nutshell**, Vietnam is a mustsee destination for foreign visitors.

9. FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATION

Face to face communication is very important nowadays.

- **express your feeling**
- **build personal relationship**
- **reduce misunderstandings**
- **[Your own ideas]**

Một số cấu trúc, từ vựng hữu ích

- face to face communication = face to face conversations = communicating
- face to face = meeting someone in person = talking to people directly = face to face chatting/ meetings

Bài mẫu

Nowadays thanks to the development of technology, there are different means of communication, namely telephones, emails, social networking websites and so on. However, I believe that face to face communication still plays a vital part in our lives. **First of all**, face to face conversations help to express our feelings. As we often show our feelings through facial expressions. It is easy for other people to know how you feel when talking face to face. Besides, body language speaks a lot louder than words so you can gain a better understanding of how your partner is feeling than when you communicate through other forms of communication. **Secondly**, communicating with other people directly, we are able to build personal relationship. Having a meeting or going out for a drink, for example, give people the opportunity to make a relationship become stronger as talking to someone in person can help us easily make friend with him or her. **Finally**, face to face chatting allows us to reduce misunderstandings. When talking to others, we can see their body language and facial expression so we can easily understand if they agree with our ideas or not. Therefore, if there are any problems, we can deal with them immediately. Thus, face to face meetings minimize the risk of miscommunication compared to email or over the phone. **In conclusion**, communicating face to face has so many benefits that people are encouraged to do so.

10. PARENTS ARE THE BEST TEACHERS

- be closer to the children
- teach them with love and responsibility
- understand the strength and weakness
- [Your own idea]

Bài mẫu

I totally agree that parents are the best teachers because of the following reasons. **First of all**, parents are closer to the children. They are the first teachers who teach us to walk, speak and behave well. It is almost for sure that since the beginning of our lives, parents were so committed to teaching their children. **Secondly**, parents can understand their children's strengths and weaknesses because they are close to them. Therefore, they know which is the most suitable for their kids. **Finally**, they teach their kids with love and responsibility. They feel responsible for protecting their children from dangers. They will always be there for their children no matter what happens. Besides, parents always love their children so much that they have great patience while passing down knowledge to their kids. **In conclusion**, parents are the best teachers because of their closeness, love, responsibility and their deep understanding of their children.

11. TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Traditional music has many values.

- **cultural values**
- **historical values**
- **educational values**
- **[Your own idea]**

Bài mẫu

Traditional music offers various values. **In the first place**, it has cultural values. Music is believed to be a symbol for a nation's culture. Different countries have different genres of music. Based on the rhythms, one can say where a song comes from. **Secondly**, traditional music brings historical values. It teaches us about the history of the country because many songs were composed to describe real situations in the past. Therefore, when we hear them, they can remind us what our forefather passed. For example, songs during revolutionary period encouraged people to live and fight against invaders during the war. **Finally**, it has educational values. I would say that they were the first songs we heard in our early lives and our first speaking and listening lessons. Traditional music especially lullabies that our mothers sing help us to develop speech and language. Repeating sounds, rhythm and melody in songs aid language development (giúp sự phát triển ngôn ngữ). **To sum up** (Tóm lại), traditional music still plays an important part in our lives (đóng vai trò quan trọng trong cuộc sống của chúng ta) so more effort should be made to preserve it (bảo tồn nó).

12. HELPING PEOPLE

There are many ways of helping others.

- **run a club/organization to support people**
- **give money, food, clothes**
- **help them with daily tasks**
- **[Your own idea]**

Bài mẫu

In my opinion, people can help others in various ways. **In the first place**, people can run a club or organization to support, which is probably the best way to do charity because a large number of people are supported in this way. For example, famous people often organize live shows or performances to raise funds or many NGOs (**Non-Governmental Organizations**: các tổ chức phi chính phủ) also help others in this way. **Secondly**, we are able to give people some basic things such as food, clothes or even money. A small thing you do can help them overcome difficulties. To give a clear example, we often give these necessary things to poor people in remote areas or when people suffer from natural disasters such as floods in Central Vietnam or droughts in Southern Vietnam. **Finally**, we can help other people with daily tasks. Volunteers help feed children, read books to children, do housework and so on. **To sum up**, there are many ways to assist other people. Provided that you are willing, you can easily choose one method to give happiness to others and in return you will feel happy, too.

13. CHILDHOOD

Childhood is the most important time of a person's life.

- **developing physical health**
- **forming personalities**
- **learning things fast**
- **[Your own idea]**

Bài mẫu

Childhood is the most significant time of a person's life. **In the first place**, it is a significant period for children to form their personalities (hình thành nhân cách). In these early years of their lives, children are like sponges (miếng bọt biển), which absorb a large amount of information (hấp thu 1 lượng thông tin lớn) from various sources (từ nhiều nguồn) which are both moral and immoral (tốt và không tốt). From this data, they create habits which will have a great influence on their lives. Parents need to pay much attention (chú ý đến) to them and tell them what's wrong and right. **Moreover**, children can learn things fast during childhood. At this time, children tend to be very curious about things around them. As a result, they want to explore the world around them. By doing so, children can acquire a great deal of knowledge and skills. **Last but not least**, it is in childhood that children develop their physical health. It's believed that a person's height is twice as much as his height at the age of two. Besides that, children should be able to achieve their optimal physical growth if they are well brought up in their early years. **In conclusion**, childhood is the most decisive phase, which lays the basic foundation for forming adult life in later years.

14. STUDYING ABROAD

There are many ways of helping others.

- **run a club/organization to support people**
- **give money, food, clothes**
- **help them with daily tasks**
- **[Your own idea]**

Bài mẫu

I totally agree that there are numerous advantages of studying overseas. **First of all**, students can have better education. It is true that foreign countries often offer better courses because they employ excellent teachers who are experts in different fields. Moreover, universities are often equipped with modern facilities which support students' learning. **Secondly**, students can become more independent. I mean that they live on their own so they have to do everything by themselves like cleaning the house, cooking, controlling time and money and so on. Besides, living far away from home also gives students many opportunities to improve their social skills. **Finally**, with a degree from a wellknown university in another country, people can find a better job with higher salary. Furthermore, they can learn a foreign language while studying abroad so it's easy for them to look for employment in a foreign company when they return to their home country. **In conclusion**, overseas courses offer learners a variety of merits, namely better education, more independence and job prospects.