

Day 16 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 5

Sample Answer

Well, if I have to choose a favorite type of food, I would definitely say that my favorite food is pizza, which is an oven-baked, flat, round bread typically topped with a tomato sauce, cheese and various toppings. Ever since I was a little boy, pizza has always had a special place in my heart. And how often do I eat it? Let's see... I eat pizza about two or three times a week. I definitely eat it every Sunday when I order it online for fast pizza delivery, because I don't feel like cooking on Sundays. In addition, I order pizza sometime during the week when I am too tired to go out.

Question 6

Sample Answer

Hmm... Is there any food that I don't like to eat? That's a hard question because I eat almost anything. But now that I think of it, I don't think I like to eat fish heads. I must say they are not nice to look at, especially with those dead eyes gazing at you! Many people, however, eat fish heads with gusto. Some cultures eat fish heads simply because they find the cheeks to be absolutely delicious. Fish heads are used also by some for medicinal purposes, including treating headaches and curing tooth decay.

Question 7

Sample Answer

Well, what is fast food? Fast food is the term given to food that can be prepared and served very quickly. All over the world fast food is becoming more and more popular. But in my opinion, eating fast food is not good for your health. Fast-food lovers tend to consume more fats, sugars and carbohydrates and fewer fruits and vegetables than those who don't eat fast food. Recent data suggest that fast food contributes to increased calorie intake and obesity risk especially in children. Although eating fast food is cheaper than eating in a traditional food restaurant, sometimes you don't know what you are eating, nor do you know what ingredients are in your meal. Furthermore, it is questionable whether they are being prepared under hygienic conditions.

DICTION

1. The dress code of a place is the rules about what kind of clothes people are allowed to wear there.
2. What is your most valuable piece of jewelry?

3. What do you think of people who dye their hair green?
4. What do you think of people with tattoos?
5. Do you think that the clothes we wear reflect what is inside us?
6. Have you ever bought imitation brand clothing?
7. What is the difference in the people who choose to wear contacts and the people who choose to wear glasses?

Day 17 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 5

Sample Answer

What did I wear yesterday? Well, I wore a white knee-length skirt with black polka dots, a black wrap top, black patent heels, and a white beaded necklace.

Question 6

Sample Answer

What is the most expensive piece of clothing I have ever bought? Well, let me think. Ah, it must be my wedding dress. Every girl expects to be the most beautiful bride in her wedding. It is also a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. So I bought my wedding dress from a shop which is specialized in custom-made wedding dresses. Although it was very expensive, it was perfect and everyone liked it.

Question 7

Sample Answer

Well, let us start with the definition of ‘dress codes.’ The dress code of a place is the rules about what kind of clothes people are allowed to wear there. Now, should organizations have dress codes? That’s a contentious question. On the one hand, employees appreciate knowing what their organization considers appropriate work attire. On the other hand, employees are adults and capable of dressing appropriately for work without dress codes. In my opinion, I do think it is mandatory for any corporate organization to have a meaningful and polite dress code. However, the dress code shouldn’t be too strict. It would be ridiculous to impose such detailed dress codes as ‘high heels cannot be higher than 3”’, ‘dresses must be no shorter than 3” above the knee’ and so on. It should be very simple and done in a proper way without causing any sexual intimidation and harassment in the office. Dress codes give a very strong, unspoken impression of not only an individual but also an organization. A dress code will contribute a lot in gauging the seriousness of an organization.

DICTION

1. We were at home in bed when our car was stolen from outside the house.
(cf. House describes a type of building and home is the place where you live and feel that you belong to.)
2. Describe how you go about buying a house in your country.

3. What are the most common neighbor complaints?
4. Compare package tours with do-it-yourself tours.
5. Would you like to go on a cruise? Why or why not?

Day 18 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 5

Sample Answer

I currently live in Havelock North, New Zealand. Havelock North is a small village situated at the base of the prominent landmark Te Mata Peak in the North Island of New Zealand. Its population is just over 10,000. It has a reputation for its orchards, vineyards, and educational facilities. One of New Zealand's most important wine regions spreads around the area. It's worth spending a few hours exploring the heart of the village. The shopping is excellent — whether you are after designer clothes, furniture, or gourmet foods, you are bound to find something of interest. A drive to the top of Te Mata Peak is a 'must do' for any visitor. The views are truly breathtaking.

Question 6

Sample Answer

If I could, I would like to live in Cebu, the Philippines, for the following reasons. Firstly, the cost of living in Cebu is much lower than in New Zealand. Secondly, while New Zealand has a largely temperate climate, the village I live in can be very cold in winter, which has an adverse effect on my backache. The climate of Cebu, on the other hand, is a tropical climate and it is warm all year round. Lastly, Cebu's economy is growing at a rate of 10% per annum. I can see that people there are building a strong economy poised for a prolonged period of solid growth that will continue to create jobs, raise wages, and lift their living standards, which is encouraging.

Question 7

Sample Answer

Well, my house consists of three bedrooms, a living room with a fireplace, a bathroom, a dining room, a kitchen and a toilet. It is air-conditioned and well furnished. The living room and bedrooms are carpeted. I like the living room in particular, which is decorated beautifully. Some paintings my father bought in Europe are hung on the walls. The house is surrounded with a luxuriant garden and it is my weekly job to mow the lawn. There is a river behind our house and we often go fishing by the river. We have a double garage in the back garden. And if you amble out to the street, you'll see our curbside mailbox.

Exercise

- (1) however (2) as a result (3) In addition (4) First of all (5) second
(6) third (7) because of (8) For example (9) To sum up

Dictation

1. We recommended him for the job.
2. The company will utilize only one-fourth of its revenue to pay back its investors.
3. We have read the committee's exhaustive report.
4. He began pounding the keyboard of his computer.
5. Screening is performed to identify the presence of a disease or a risk factor for a disease.
6. Discrimination on grounds of race or gender is forbidden.
7. They fear it could have an adverse effect on global financial markets.

Day 19 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 5

Sample Answer

People do sports not only because it is fun, but also because there are a number of health benefits associated with staying active. I would recommend, among others, swimming. Swimming is good exercise. First of all, swimming works the entire body, and major muscle groups go through an exhaustive workout in the pool. Secondly, swimming utilizes the whole body through movements that can only be done in the water. And perhaps you have been doing some other form of land exercise, and now an injury prevents you from putting weight on a knee or ankle. Swimming can help you. The natural resistance from the water protects areas such as the knees and ankles without the weight of your body pounding you with each move. Lastly, swimming is a healthy activity that can be continued for a lifetime. I myself go swimming three times a week and I feel fit.

Question 6

Sample Answer

Well, I think there is no one-size-fits-all answer as to how often you should visit your doctor for preventative screenings. It varies by age, gender and health history. Although it is not a good idea to be over-tested or over-screened as some of those screens can lead to adverse outcomes, there is no doubt that we should visit our doctor at least once a year for our annual checkup, even if we are healthy. We know that there are some very important screens that have the potential to save lives and prevent disease. Preventative health screenings can uncover health problems we don't even know about.

Question 7

Sample Answer

Well, I think staying healthy means being fit physically as well as mentally. Do some sports regularly. Make exercise a habit. You don't have to join a gym to get exercise. You can purchase inexpensive equipment instead. Take a daily walk. Walking burns fat, and boosts your mood as well as your metabolism. Eat your vegetables. Find food grown locally.

Drink plenty of fresh water. Your body is made of over 80% water. Water cleans your blood, floats your brain and burns fat. Encourage healthy sleep. Develop and maintain a bedtime routine. So, keep on exercising, eat well, drink well, sleep well, and you will gain in fitness and health for your body, mind and spirit.

Dictation

1. When you drive or walk, do you get distracted by advertisements on buses or billboards?
2. Does TV make a person passive?
3. If you could design a new television show to boost ratings, what kind of show would it be?
4. Does violence on TV influence some young people to engage in violent behavior?
5. Who is the most controversial politician in your country?
6. It's a great city — the only drawback is the weather.

Day 20 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 5

Sample Answer

Well, I generally watch the news in the morning before I leave for work and in the evenings I usually watch the movie channels. I try to avoid the outdoor channels. So, on average I watch TV about three hours a day.

Question 6

Sample Answer

I wake up to a clock radio in the bedroom. I have a radio in the bathroom that I listen to while showering. I have a radio in the kitchen. I listen to the news in the morning while I'm having breakfast. I listen to music on the radio in my car. And when I am working in the yard, I always listen to broadcast radio. My hands are too dirty to mess with iPods, and the wires would just get pulled off my head anyway.

Question 7

Sample Answer

There is something rather nice about radio — you can move from room to room and do things while still being informed and entertained. You don't have to sit there and stare at a box. Radio is meant for the ears, and gives the freedom to do something else while you listen. Radio doesn't demand that I sit there. In addition, this second-oldest form of media is the most interactive medium. Listeners can call and comment on a program while it is still in progress. Television does this as well, but much less frequently. On the other hand, TV has a distinct advantage in that there is a visible picture on the screen and little or no imagination is required. It is all too easy to sit in front of the TV for hours at a time, not thinking or interacting at all with anyone while doing so. But is that necessarily a good thing? I think TV makes a person passive. In addition, TV has been accused of glorifying violence, alcohol, drugs or sex. All in all, the radio is the better medium in my opinion.

DICTIONARY

1. What household chores do you do?
2. Do you have a curfew?
3. Is spanking a good way to discipline children?
4. Most young smokers are influenced by their friends' and older siblings' smoking.

5. Do you live in a nuclear family or an extended family?
6. Who is the breadwinner in your family?
7. Do you often argue with your mother or father? What about?

Day 21 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 8

Sample Answer

Hello, Ms. Coulter. Thank you for your custom. Let me check my information... Yes. From Monday through Saturday, we are open from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. But on Sunday we are open from 11:30 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Question 9

Sample Answer

Let me see now... No, we are very sorry, but we don't offer twenty percent discount on all antique furniture today. We are offering a ten percent discount on all modern furniture, though. Why don't you visit us, Ms. Coulter. The fifth floor of the store has been completely refurbished to showcase an extensive range of modern furniture. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

Question 10

Sample Answer

Certainly. First, from 10:00 to 11:00 in the morning, we have 10% off all vegetables on the first floor. Then, from 11:30a.m. to 1:30 p.m. we have 2-for-1 pizza lunch set at our Italian restaurant. From 2pm to 3:30pm, we are offering a 40% discount on all his-and-hers cardigans on the second floor. And all Pan 5 desktop computers are 20% off from 4pm to 5pm on the third floor. And after that, from 5pm to 6pm we are offering a 10% discount on all modern furniture, as I mentioned earlier. That's today's Value Club Cardholder's Specials. Can I help you with anything else, Ms. Coulter?

DICTIONARY

1. A hawker is someone who tries to sell things carrying them in the street.
2. A lot of people steer clear of these sensitive issues.
3. It is illegal to sell tobacco to someone under 16.
4. On cold nights like this, the street vendors do a roaring trade in hot chestnuts.
5. He was forced to pay a fine of \$150 for speeding.
6. The cost will be astronomical.
7. The bank manager is said to have issued fake certificates.

Day 22 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 8

Sample Answer

OK, so you want to know about this hotel's Florence tour. Let me check the information. The tour starts at 8:30 a.m. and finishes at 6:00 p.m. Altogether, it will last 9 hours and 30 minutes. I hope this information is helpful to you. If you decide to join the tour, please come to the front desk. Do you have any further questions?

Question 9

Sample Answer

Let's see. Yes. The tour of the Uffizi Gallery is included in the afternoon sightseeing, which starts at 2 p.m. after lunch at Ora d' Aria. I strongly recommend the Uffizi Gallery. It is one of the oldest and most famous art museums of the Western world.

Question 10

Sample Answer

OK. I'm now looking for information about shopping in Florence. Oh, yes. If you get approached by any hawkers with their fake Prada or Gucci or any other high-end designer goods on the streets, please steer clear of them. It's illegal here, and fines are astronomical if the police happen to catch you. It's you who have to pay the fine, not the vendor. So, please be careful. Can I help you with anything else?

Exercise

Answer Key:

1. First
2. Then
3. and
4. followed by
5. After
6. finally

DICTION

1. The hotel has been renovated and redecorated.
2. All the arrangements should be completed prior to your departure.
3. This is sure to be an item on the agenda next week.
4. Customer Satisfaction Surveys improve customer retention. Satisfied customers buy often and spend more.
5. Woking's International Convention Center is the venue for a three-day arts festival.

Day 23 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 8

Sample Answer

Good morning, Simon. If you would like to add something to the agenda, you should contact Ted Miller by phone or email at least one week before the meeting.

Question 9

Sample Answer

No, Simon. Actually, the Customer Satisfaction Survey Results will be reported by Alice Summers not after lunch but at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Question 10

Sample Answer

Yes, certainly. Let me check my information. Well, my information says that the success stories will be presented by John Wood from the Chicago branch, Sarah Smith from the LA branch, and David Marshall from Miami branch. It will start at 9:45 A.M. May I help you with anything else?

Exercise

Sample Answer

2. Yes, certainly. Let me just check the agenda. . .

They will arrive at 8:15 a.m. on flight JL 204 from Saigon at Terminal 1.

3. I'm really sorry, but I'm afraid John Mac Nab's talk has been canceled due to ill health. But Chris Jackson, who is also a REIT expert, will be talking about "Getting Most out of Real Estate Investment Trust". I'm sure you'll be interested. His talk will start at 2:00 p.m.

DICTION

1. I'm thinking about becoming a vegetarian.
2. I should warn you in advance that I'm not a very good dancer.
3. A trade delegation will visit Singapore.
4. Languages are an essential part of the school curriculum.
5. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.
6. She was in London to receive her award as Mum of the year.
7. Each lesson lasts an hour.

Day 24 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 8

Model Answer

Oh, hello, Mr. Burns. So you want to know about the afternoon events. I'll just check on the agenda. After lunch, at 1:00 there are speeches by each delegate member, which will last for two and half hours. A fifteen-minute coffee break will follow. Finally, the delegate will meet with local officials from the Shanghai Foreign Commerce Commission.

Question 9

Model Answer

Just let me look at the agenda. Yes, that's right. It says that your lunch will take place at Tsim Sha Tsui Restaurant and vegetarian dishes are available upon request. We can always make a request in advance, if you like, Mr. Burns.

Question 10

Model Answer

Yes, certainly. Just let me have a look at your schedule. After the arrival, a panel discussion on economic development will take place from 10:30 to 12:00. Then you have lunch at Tsim Sha Tsui Restaurant from 12:00 to 1:00. After that, there will be speeches by each delegate member, followed by a coffee break. Then there will be a meeting with local officials from the Shanghai Foreign Commerce Commission. That will finish at 5:00. I hope this information is helpful to you.

Exercise

Model Answer

1. I'm afraid that is not correct. They are coming in on a flight from San Diego.
2. No, actually they are arriving at Terminal 2 at Shanghai Pudong International Airport, not Terminal 1 at Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport.
3. I'm terribly sorry, but I'm afraid lunch will take place at Tsim Sha Tsui Restaurant.
4. Well, actually, they are meeting with local officials from the Shanghai Foreign Commerce Commission from 3:45 to 5:00.

DICTIONARY

1. His birthday will fall on a Sunday this year.
2. Fill out the application form and send it back with your check.

3. What's the procedure for applying for a visa?
4. How many students have registered for English classes?
5. The interview was conducted in English.
6. All employees are routinely screened for TB.

Day 25 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Question 8

Model Answer

Good morning, thank you for calling. Let's see. You said your employment date is February 1st, didn't you? Then, the group orientation session will be held in Room 306 of College of Humanities building from 8:30 to 12:00 and again from 1:00 to 3:30. There will be a one-hour lunch break at 12:00.

Question 9

Model Answer

So, you want to check if lunch will be available. One moment, please. Let me check my information. Yes, my information says that you can eat in the school cafeteria for a reasonable price. Remember that lunch will take place between 12:00 and 1:00.

Question 10

Model Answer

Yes, certainly. Between 8:30 and 9:30 somebody will explain the registration procedures and you will get your forms. After that, from 9:30 to 12:00, employees with last names beginning with A through L will register. Employees whose last names begin with M through Z will attend an orientation. Between 1:00 and 3:30, employees whose last names begin with A through L will have orientation and employees whose last names begin with M through Z will register. May I help you with anything else?

DICTIONARY

1. You are often asked to send a résumé when you are applying for a job.
2. The painter gave me an estimate of \$400 for painting the house.
3. It may be necessary to identify alternative methods of achieving your goals.
4. Recycling paper and cans is one easy way to preserve the environment.
5. Jane commutes to Manhattan every day.
6. The next place on our itinerary was Perugia.

Day 26 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Modal Answer A

I think that traffic is a serious problem in many cities all around the world. I have three reasons for thinking this. First, automobiles contribute to pollution, and this is a serious problem for the world. Reducing the amount of traffic would help reduce the amount of pollution. Second, people waste a lot of time waiting in heavy traffic. This time could be used for doing more valuable things. Third, there are many, many accidents on the roads every year and a lot of deaths caused by them. I think if amount of traffic was reduced, the number of accidents on the roads would also be reduced. In short, I think traffic is a serious problem in many cities all around the world.

Model Answer B

I do not think that traffic is a serious problem in many cities all around the world. I have three reasons for thinking this. First, automobiles are used by millions of people every day showing that a lot of people depend on them. Of course, traffic can be annoying, but automobiles greatly improve our lives. Second, I do not think the traffic is too serious in most cities most of the time. When traffic does get very heavy, perhaps, for example, due to road construction, people adjust and use public transport until the traffic lightens. Third, I think that there are other problems in many cities around the world which should be considered to be more serious than traffic, such as crime and poverty. These problems should be solved first before governments worry about traffic. Overall, I do not think that traffic is a serious problem in many cities all around the world.

DICTION

1. His career has been hindered by injury.
2. She was a frequent visitor to the house.
3. This can sometimes lead to somewhat superficial interactions with other people.
4. He showed me the diagram of the building.
5. His first point was very good, but I disagree with his subsequent points.

Day 27 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer Key:

Has modern technology helped or hindered communication?

Exercise 2

Answer Key:

Your opinion will be either A: “I think that modern technology has helped communication.” or B: “I think that modern technology has hindered communication.”

Modal Answer A

I think that modern technology has helped communication. There are three reasons why I think this. First, before the inventions of cell phones and computers, people could only communicate by sending letters or by meeting face-to-face. This meant that communication between people could not be as frequent as it is now with modern technology. Second, some people might think or feel it is difficult to ask certain questions or have certain conversations face-to-face, and so they might prefer to make a phone call or text or email the person. Third, people don't have to worry about forgetting to ask something or worry about dealing with every issue in a face-to-face meeting because texting, emailing and phoning can all be done quickly to deal with such situations.

Model Answer B

While I can't deny that modern technology has helped communication in some ways, I think that, overall, modern technology has hindered communication. Modern technology has helped communication because it has given people more ways to communicate, and those extra ways are especially useful when people are far apart. However, these extra methods of communication sometimes stop people meeting face-to-face when perhaps they should meet face-to-face. For example, an important discussion at work or an important conversation between two people in a relationship should, in my opinion, be done face-to-face. But because people can communicate by phone, email or text, sometimes these important interactions are not done face-to-face. I think the unfortunate result is that people don't communicate as well.

DICTION

1. Jane acquired a good knowledge of Spanish.

2. Teachers should ensure that students understand the work.
3. She tried to focus her mind on her work.
4. In an attempt to relieve the boredom, they decided to go to the pub.
5. People had to move to other areas in pursuit of work.
6. Nobody felt inclined to argue with him.
7. He did his best to promote discipline among the prisoners.
8. He dedicated his life to the cause of education.

Day 28 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer Key:

Is it more important that children be given time to play and enjoy themselves or is it more important that children study, learn skills and acquire knowledge?

Exercise 2

Answer Key:

Your opinion will be either A: “I think that it is more important that children be given time to play and enjoy themselves.” or B: “I think that it is more important that children study, learn skills and acquire knowledge.”

Modal Answer A

It is certainly very important for children to study and learn as much as they can. However, I think it is more important that children be given time to play and enjoy themselves. Or, to put the point in a slightly different way, I think that the focus should be on ensuring children are given time to play and enjoy themselves. I have two main reasons for thinking this. First, children clearly think differently from adults and usually don't handle boredom well. For example, if an adult is a little bored at work or a little fed up of doing the housework, the adult will still complete the task because adults know it's important to do so. But if, for example, a child is bored with studying, the child will often lose interest or not concentrate because children don't understand it's important. So, it's much better if children enjoy what they're doing so they stay focused. Second, a lot can be taught through playing, such as new words, skills such as drawing, and knowledge of colors, shapes and numbers. Children will continue to learn so long as they are enjoying themselves while doing so.

Model Answer B

I think it's more important that children study, learn skills and acquire knowledge than play, and I think time should be dedicated to these pursuits. There are three reasons why I think this. First, almost all children are naturally inclined to play and will do so in their own time. Playing is important and I think children should enjoy themselves, but I don't think it is necessary to encourage play – children will play anyway. Second, a child should learn that they cannot always do what they want; this is how things are for adults, so it's a good thing to learn early. If children can acquire basic patience and discipline early, it will be very good for their future. Finally, a

Day 29 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer Key:

Should companies be forced to recycle? Should companies be fined if they do not recycle?

Exercise 2

Answer Key:

Your opinion will be either A: “I think that companies should be forced to recycle their waste and that they should be punished if they do not do so.” or B: “I don’t think that companies should be forced to recycle.”

Model Answer A

I think that companies should be forced to recycle their waste and that they should be punished if they do not do so. Furthermore, I think that such a policy would need to be made and enforced by the government. There are two points for this. The first point is that recycling uses less energy than extracting and refining raw materials and so saves energy and raw materials which helps to protect the environment. With an ever-increasing population, this is a very important thing to do. The second point is that financial profit is the foundation of most businesses, and if recycling does not affect profit significantly, there is, unfortunately, not much incentive for businesses to recycle. If companies were fined for not recycling, recycling would significantly affect profit almost certainly leading businesses to recycle.

Model Answer B

In my opinion, while I think recycling is important, I don’t think that companies should be forced to recycle. This is because I believe that companies need to be given the most favorable conditions possible in which they can thrive and survive. Laws that restrict business options, such as forcing companies to recycle, make economic conditions less favorable, which can lead to severe business problems, especially for new companies or in times of economic depression. Instead of forcing companies to recycle and fining them if they do not, I think that it would be better to reward companies for recycling. That way, a company does not suffer if they do not have the infrastructure to recycle and so they can continue to operate, but a company can also receive some reward if they do make the effort to recycle.

Dictation

1. Let's pretend we're on the moon.
2. The new law restricts the sale of hand guns.
3. The timing of the announcement was entirely appropriate.
4. The wicked stepmother hit him.
5. It is a very serious offence to impersonate a police officer.
6. It would be naïve to think that this could solve all the problems.
7. Road safety is taught to young children to avoid road accidents.

Day 30 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer Key:

Should children be restricted from joining social media networking websites such as Facebook?

Exercise 2

Answer Key:

Your opinion will be either A: “I think that children should be restricted from joining social media networking websites such as Facebook” or B: “I don’t think that children should be restricted from joining social media networking websites such as Facebook.”

Model Answer A

I think that children below the age of 18 should be restricted from joining social media networking websites. It is true that anyone can upload photos which aren’t appropriate for children to see, or write things which children shouldn’t read. Movies are rated according to what age they are suitable for and some music albums are given a “Parental Advisory Explicit Lyrics” warning; so I think there should also be age restrictions for social media networking websites. A further problem is that wicked people can impersonate somebody else online and try to trick other people. For children this is particularly dangerous as they are inexperienced about the world and naïve and so are more likely to be tricked. In my opinion, it is impossible for parents to monitor their children’s use of a social media networking website. Once someone becomes 18, they are considered an adult in my country, and so I think it is okay for an 18-year-old to join social media networking websites.

Model Answer B

In my opinion, I don’t think there needs to be a legal restriction on the age limit for joining social media networking websites. So, I don’t think that children should be restricted from joining such websites. While I understand that there are some potential risks of allowing children to join social media networking websites, I think that these risks are really very small and that there are many benefits from joining such websites. For example, you can join groups according to your interests and hobbies which can help you to learn more about your interests or hobbies. So, social media networking websites can educate people, including children. Another benefit is that using a computer and the internet helps children learn how computers and the internet works. This

knowledge is transferable to other tasks that use computers and the internet. I think if parents monitor their children's use of social media networking websites and help guide them about who and who not to communicate with on them, what small risks there are in using such websites can almost completely be avoided. For these reasons I don't think children should be restricted from joining social media networking websites.

DICTATION

1. In my opinion, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.
2. Congress is continuing to oppose the President's healthcare budget.
3. Drafting an essay should always be your first step.
4. The dog next door is a real nuisance.
5. I usually work an eight-hour shift, from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Day 31 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer Key:

Do you support or oppose the proposal that a new casino will be built close to where you live?

Exercise 2

Answer Key:

Your opinion will be either A: “I support the proposal that a new casino will be built close to where I live.” or B: “I don’t support the proposal that a new casino will be built close to where I live.”

Model Answer A

I think that building a new casino close to where you live is a good idea and so I support the proposal. There are three reasons why I think this. First, there is nothing open late at night in my area so sometimes people drink outside in the street. These people can be noisy. If a casino is built nearby, I think a lot of those people will go to the casino instead of drinking on the street. Second, a casino will create new jobs. Some of those jobs would be filled by people living in the local area. So, in effect, a casino could bring money to the people in the area. Third, there is always a security team working at a casino. I think that this means the local area will become safer as the security team will deal with any trouble there.

Model Answer B

I think that building a new casino close to where you live is a not good idea and so I oppose the proposal. There are three reasons why I think this. First, the area where I live is a residential area and so the area is fairly quiet at night time. A casino would bring people to the area late and night and create noise and maybe nuisance for the people living there. Second, the roads in the area are not big and so not suitable for a lot of traffic. If many people drove to the casino, this would create more traffic which would not be good for the area. Third, some people will get very drunk at the casino. The security staff will deal with them inside of the casino, but probably won’t deal with them if they are noisy and create a problem outside in the street. This will not be good for the area, either.

DICTIONARY

1. White water is a part of a river that looks white because the water is running very quickly over rocks.
2. White water rafting involves the use of an inflatable raft to navigate a river.
3. A plaster cast is a bandage consisting of a firm covering that immobilizes broken bones while they heal.
4. I usually take a nap after lunch.
5. I was on crutches for one month after the operation.
6. Many people died in China's worst air disaster.

Day 32 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer key

Do you prefer to completely relax on holiday or do you prefer to have an adventure or do lots of sightseeing?

Exercise 2

Answer key

Your opinion will be either A: “I prefer to completely relax on holiday.” or B: “I prefer to have an adventure or do lots of sightseeing on holiday.”

Exercise 3

Model Answer A

I prefer to completely relax on holiday. This is because of two main reasons. First, I work in a big company in the city and I think my job is quite stressful sometimes. So, when I go on holiday, I want to be totally stress-free and completely relax. If I made lots of plans on holiday to go sightseeing or attend events, I would feel I had a schedule to follow and couldn't wake up when I wanted to, eat when I wanted to or sleep when I wanted to. For example, I really like to have afternoon naps when I'm on holiday! Second, I went on a skiing holiday once before and I broke my leg on the third day. It was a real disaster! When I got back home, I couldn't function properly as I was on crutches and my leg was in a plaster cast. It was really frustrating for me. After that experience, I decided to never try an adventure style holiday again!

Model Answer B

Although I sometimes go on relaxing holidays, I much prefer holidays which are packed full of activities or adventures. When I go on holiday, I can relax on the beach or beside the pool for one or two days, but after that, I find myself becoming a little bored. Whether I travel to a different location in my own country or abroad, I think I have a fantastic opportunity to see and experience different things to my hometown. For example, there may be some interesting art galleries or museums in the holiday location, there will be some different restaurants with perhaps some delicious food, and there will always be some different architecture to look at. In addition, quite a lot of different places I have visited have exciting activities which I always like to try, such as skiing or white water rafting. I always really enjoy activities such as those, and would much prefer to be doing them than lying on the beach.

Dictation

1. Car insurance is compulsory.
2. This restaurant has a strict dress code – no tie, no service.
3. In a business letter, it is appropriate to be fairly formal.
4. The drop in consumer spending reflects concern about the economy.
5. Employers must provide adequate training opportunities.
6. Firm discipline was enforced on the workers.

Day 33 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer key

Do you think it is important for companies to have a uniform or compulsory dress code?

Exercise 2

Answer key

Your opinion will be either A: “I think it is important for companies to have a uniform or a compulsory dress code.” or B: “I don’t think it is important for companies to have a uniform or a compulsory dress code.”

Exercise 3

Model Answer A

I think it is important for companies to have a uniform or a compulsory dress code. When people go to work, they should be professional and approach their tasks in a serious manner. People should not go to work to socialize with friends or to have fun, although I also think it’s good for people to enjoy their work. So, I don’t think people should wear their own, personal clothes at work; I think they should wear a company uniform or follow a strict dress code to reflect the professionalism associated with going to work. For businesses where customer contact is very frequent, such as hotels, restaurants, banks and shops, a uniform is very appropriate. For other businesses where customer contact is less frequent, such as in offices or internet companies, a professional dress code is adequate. It’s up to each individual company to decide exactly how strict their dress code should be.

Model Answer B

In my opinion, having a uniform or dress code or not very much depends on each company’s business, their business philosophy, and their approach to their customers. For some businesses in the hospitality industry, it’s important for employees to wear a uniform because they are dealing with customers every day. For public services such as the police and the fire department, a uniform is also essential. It’s also important for professional companies such as banks and law firms to enforce a dress code. However, for other companies that adopt a more relaxed and modern approach to work, I don’t think it is so necessary. Quite a few internet companies, for example, have neither a uniform nor a strict dress code. This allows employees to wear what they feel is most comfortable and to concentrate on their work. I don’t think companies like that need

a uniform or a dress code.

Dictation

1. It was accepted that humans had evolved from primate ancestors.
2. Rooms are offered subject to availability.
3. Nutrition and exercise are essential to fitness and health.
4. Women in their fifties may need to take a calcium supplement.
5. John commutes to Manhattan every day.
6. There was a complimentary bottle of champagne in the hotel room.

Day 34 – Answers

SAMPLE QUESTION

Exercise 1

Answer key

Do you think people eat too much of fast food or that people eat healthily?

Exercise 2

Answer key

Your opinion will be either A: “I think people eat less healthily nowadays.” or B: “I don’t think people eat less healthily nowadays.”

Exercise 3

Model Answer A

I think that people eat less healthily nowadays than they used to. Although I am not an expert, I read and see in the news a number of reports stating that people around the world alive today are unhealthier and fatter than are ancestors. It seems that one of the causes of this change is the huge number of fast food restaurants and the availability of candy and chocolate. Fast food tastes good to a lot of people, it is often cheaper than other options, and, of course, you get served fast too. Candy and chocolate is on sale in so many places these days, in convenient stores, in gas stations, in subway stations, and so on. It is very easy for people to buy a chocolate bar or some candy, and people get tempted easily. I think the availability of these unhealthy foods with high sugar content is one of the main reasons people eat unhealthily today.

Model Answer B

It is quite commonly said these days that people eat too much junk food and chocolate, and that people don’t eat healthily enough. However, I am not sure that that is entirely true. One of the reasons I doubt this is because I also read and see in the news the continual improvement in sports and world records being broken by athletes every year – knowledge about nutrition and the development of supplements have helped improve the performance of the human body. While I accept that there are too many unhealthy people in the world today who eat too much bad food, I also think that there are many people who are very healthy and eat very well and that such people are probably the healthiest in history. So, I don’t think it can simply be said that there are too many fast food chains and chocolate and candy available and that this leads to unhealthy eating – I think it is also about the individual choosing what to eat and how to live their life.