

STAGE 1: (1-2 min.)

Tell me your name, please.

How are you?

Would you tell me something about yourself/your hobbies/future plans/family/...? (**Choose one of the topics for the student to speak about.**)

STAGE 2: Monologue + discussion (5-6 min.)

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YOUNG PEOPLE, IDENTITY AND POPULARITY

It is often claimed that young people buy certain brands, and use certain products, to express their personalities. For example, skateboarders wear baggy trousers. By wearing this kind of clothing, the young person shows which group he belongs to.

Professor Maggie Geuens and researcher Gitte Mast of the Ghent Management School ran a survey on this subject, covering 686 young people aged between 12 and 18.

According to the results, the average young person believes that personality traits are the most important ingredient, both in order to be popular within a group, and to form one's identity. Likeability, honesty, confidence, kindness, having one's own opinion, listening, laughing a lot, being self-confident and sociable seem to be the most important character traits.

Clothing style is also very important alongside personality traits, unlike clothing brands, which are only of medium importance. External features, like being physically attractive or special, are only moderately important in order to be popular or forge one's personality.

<http://www.vlerick.be>

- forge – to develop
 1. What is the text about (the topic and the source)?
 2. What is the message of the text? What is the author saying?
 3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What are your strengths and weaknesses?
2. Would you rather be similar to or different from your peers?
3. Who are the people you like to be with?
4. Who has influenced your personal development so far?
5. How do you imagine your future role in your personal and social life?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

Your interviewer has recently read an article about a person who has contributed to charity.

Ask the interviewer about

the person the article was about
the contribution
time the foundation was created
aim of the foundation
most recent activity
new plans

At the end of the talk, say what you think of charity activities like that.

Interviewer's cue card

1. The article was about Bill Gates and his wife Melinda.
2. They have made several donations through the Gates Foundation.
3. The Gates Foundation was founded in 2000 and since that time it has become one of the world's biggest charities.
4. Its primary aim is to improve global health.
5. Fighting malaria in African countries. Last April, for example, the Gates Foundation contributed 17 million dollars to help conduct clinical trials of new drugs.
6. Altogether, Bill Gates plans to spend over 250 million dollars on malaria research and the development of new drugs.

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SAFE AS HEALING HOUSES

Can we make better use of colour as a means of relieving stress, stimulating our brains or promoting sleep and rest? Suzy Chiazzari, the author of *The Healing Home*, is convinced we can.

For the kitchen, she recommends rich nut browns, golden yellows, terracotta and peach, set off with lots of green, possibly from plants and herbs. To create a relaxing bedroom atmosphere, she suggests shades of pink, reinforced with green – in the carpeting, rugs or bed linen. Blue or green, says Chiazzari, can create a quiet, cool or peaceful feel.

“Teenagers,” she adds, “have always been known to decorate their rooms in colours which are at odds with their family. The colours they choose will highlight their need for self-reflection and identity crisis. It is for this reason that many teenagers choose to wear and decorate with black. Black reflects the need to withdraw within and search for answers.”

John Illman, The Guardian

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3. What is your point of view?

After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What colours do you like? Why?
2. What do you think of the colour scheme of your school?
3. If money were not a problem, what would your future home look like?
4. What makes a good home?
5. How do people make choices about where they live?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

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Student's cue card

Your interviewer is a friend who has recently started sharing a flat with a fellow student.

Ask the interviewer about

reasons for sharing a flat

gender of the flatmate

age of the flatmate

common interests

size of the flat

problems

At the end of the talk, say whether this kind of life would be suitable for you, giving reasons.

Interviewer's cue card

1. I wanted to leave my parents' home, but flats are too expensive to rent on my own.
2. Same as me.
3. One year older than me.
4. We take several common subjects at the university, we both like hiking and going to the gym.
5. A two-roomed flat.
6. He/She likes to study while loud music is playing, I can't concentrate very well then.

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COUNCILS CHEW OVER GUM PROBLEMS

It costs 3p a stick to buy, but 10p to prise off the pavements. Chewing gum dropped on Britain's streets has enraged councils so much that 20 of them have banded together to ask for financial help to get rid of the problem.

They say that on London's shopping thoroughfare Oxford Street alone, there are more than 300,000 pieces of chewing gum. Westminster Council spends more than £100,000 a year dealing with the problem.

The councils took out a full-page advert in Monday's Guardian newspaper pleading for "financial support for the enormous clean-up bill" and "proper investment" for manufacturers to come up with a biodegradable gum.

"Enough excuses, give us promises that stick," the poster says. They are calling for 1p out of the price of a pack of gum to be set aside for cleaning up the millions of pieces "spat onto our streets each day".

<http://news.bbc.co.uk>

- biodegradable - of a material that, left to itself, will be decomposed by natural processes

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After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. How clean is your neighbourhood?
2. How is recycling organised in your family?
3. Is the countryside cleaner than towns in Estonia? Why/why not?
4. What environmental problems has Estonia faced in recent years?
5. Why do we need nature reserves?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

You want to know about World Hepatitis Awareness Day. Your interviewer knows more about this.

Ask the interviewer about

aims of the day

reason

frequency and location

activities

causes of hepatitis

preventive measures

At the end of the talk, say how useful you think days like these are.

Interviewer's cue card

1. To raise awareness about hepatitis, and encourage people to get tested.
2. Because around the world almost 600 million people are infected with viral hepatitis B or C, which are highly infectious, but with early diagnosis and treatment most patients can be treated effectively.
3. An annual event that has spread to more than ten countries by now, including e.g. the UK, Sweden and Germany.
4. Talks by doctors, media events, advertising campaigns, e.g. in 2006, the campaign "Get Tested", encouraging people to have their blood screened.
5. The virus is transmitted through direct blood contact, and very few people experience any symptoms until severe liver damage has occurred.
6. Hepatitis B can be prevented through immunisation.

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A FOODIE ROADTRIP IN NEW ENGLAND

Autumn being the season of fruitfulness, we set out on a mission to find the best of American foods and flavours along the roads of New England. It was a journey in search of great diners, fantastic farmstands and the best of local produce, and, most importantly, a search for great pies.

It was early in the journey when we first began to realise the importance of pie to the American culture. Pies began to crop up on signs along the roadsides with increasing regularity. There were “homemade pies”, “hot-from-the-oven pie” and “apple pie”. Pies, it seemed, could not be ignored.

While you can tuck into a hearty breakfast of eggs, toast and hash browns in an American diner for \$2.99, a homemade pie is a premium product, on sale, even on farmstands, for around \$12-\$15. That’s how important they are. Americans are prepared to pay top dollar for them.

Rachael Jolley, The Times

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After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What is your favourite food?
2. Are you particular about what you eat? Why?
3. What do you consider a healthy diet?
4. Do you prefer buying Estonian food to imported food?
5. Which Estonian foods would you export? Why?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student’s cue card

You are planning a visit to England and you want to know about British food. Your interviewer has visited England several times.

Ask the interviewer about

the most popular fast food

the way it is prepared

a traditional dish eaten at home

best-known regional dishes

origin of names of dishes

popularity of British food

At the end of the talk, decide what you would like to try.

Interviewer’s cue card

1. Fish and chips.
2. Fish is dipped in batter and deep-fried. Chips are made from thick batons of potato and deep-fried.
3. Roast beef, traditionally eaten on Sunday.
4. Perhaps the most famous is haggis in Scotland which is made from lamb’s offal.
5. Often dishes are named after places: Cheddar cheese, Cornish pasty, Ulster ham.
6. Not as popular as French or Italian cuisine. Not much is known in Estonia.

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WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED TO GEOGRAPHY?

One in five British children under the age of 14 cannot find the UK on a map of the world and one in 10 children were unable to name any of the world's seven continents, a study found. National Geographic magazine questioned more than 1,000 children aged between six and 14. Fewer than two-thirds of children were able to locate the UK's closest political ally, the US, and despite Iraq dominating headlines in recent years, 86 per cent failed to locate it.

Professor A. Smithers from the University of Buckingham described the findings as "rather frightening". "These results underline the need for education to concentrate on the essentials," he said.

Chris Keates, general secretary of a teachers' association, called the magazine's findings "nonsense". She added: "The constant desire for groups to produce statistics to do down the English education system is quite appalling and does nothing to recognize the excellent work of children and staff."

<http://education.independent.co.uk>

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After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. What was your favourite subject at school? Why?
2. Would you like to become a teacher? Why/why not?
3. Do the results of school exams show the students' true abilities?
4. If you could change something in the educational system in Estonia, what would you do?
5. If you could point out one positive feature of Estonian school, what would it be?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

Here is a card with a task on it. Please read it to yourself. When you are ready, start the conversation.

Student's cue card

You want to get a job as a babysitter abroad. Your interviewer has a friend who lives abroad and is looking for a babysitter for her two children.

Ask the interviewer about

age and sex of the children

location

working hours

language skills

duties

salary

At the end of the talk, say whether you would like to apply for the job, giving reasons.

Interviewer's cue card

1. Boy of 4 and girl of 3.
2. Levanger, Norway (a small town 20km from Trondheim).
3. 6 hours a day, Sundays free.
4. English (the family speaks English, as the mother is English), preferably also Norwegian.
5. Duties include taking care of the children, sometimes cooking for them, too.
6. Free board and lodging, + €10 per hour + the cost of a Norwegian language class.

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HOW ACTORS REMEMBER THEIR LINES

What gives actors their seemingly effortless memory capabilities? Could acting teach us something about memory, and could acting principles help those with memory problems?

According to the researchers Helga and Tony Noice, the secret of actors' memories is, well, acting. An actor acquires lines readily by focusing not on the words of the script, but on those words' meaning as well as on the physical and emotional dimensions of their performance.

Some of the Noices' findings confirm those of other researchers on memory. Memory is heavily reliant on emotion, action and perception. In their work with actors, the Noices have found, for example, that memory is aided by physical movement. In one study, lines learned while making an appropriate motion – e.g. walking across a stage – were more readily remembered by actors later than were lines unaccompanied by action. The physical motion didn't need to be repeated at the time of recall.

<http://www.psychologicalscience.org>

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After the student has completed the monologue, continue with the following questions:

1. How often do you go to the theatre, to a concert or to the cinema?
2. Which do you prefer – films, plays or books? Why?
3. Would you like to perform on stage? Why/why not?
4. What are the drawbacks of being a famous actor?
5. Why do musicals attract large audiences?

STAGE 3: (3-4 min.)

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Student's cue card

You have seen a friend receive a flower for their birthday with a printed message on it. Your interviewer knows more about this service.

Ask the interviewer about

provider of the service

type of flower

type and length of message

placing an order

delivery arrangements

cost

At the end of the talk, say what you think of a service like this, and under which circumstances you would use it.

Interviewer's cue card

1. A firm called Flowers for You.
2. Messages printed on roses only.
3. Any personalised message, e.g. a good wish, an apology, the logo of your firm. Approximately 30 letters, the longer the text, the smaller the letters will be.
4. Through their web page www.flowersforyou.com.
5. Flowers and bouquets are delivered between 7am and 3pm on working days only by Eesti Post ELS courier. Orders need to be placed before 10am the previous working day.
6. One printed flower 55 EEK.