

# Questions for Credit. Speech Practice. (2nd year, 4th term.)

## Topic 1. Developing the Mind.

**Texts: Gender gaps on the brain, Emotional Intelligence (Cutting Edge Upper-intermediate), Emotional Intelligence. Developing Strong "People Skills". What Is Emotional Intelligence? Definitions, History, and Measures of Emotional Intelligence. IQ or EQ: Which One Is More Important? Traditional Intelligence versus Emotional Intelligence. Your Mind. Do You Make the Most of It? Producing Genius. Geniuses. Memory.**

*Speak about the differences between men and women's brains.*

*Speak about different aspects of human intelligence. Consider emotional intelligence in detail.*

*Speak about the way of improving your memory and mental efficiency.*

*Speak about the nature of talent and the ways of developing it.*

- 1) What is the difference between men's and women's brains in size and structure?
- 2) How do gender differences in the brain influence men's and women's behaviour and abilities?
- 3) How can gender differences be historically explained?
- 4) What aspects of human intelligence do you know? How are these aspects revealed in different spheres of human activity? Is it possible to measure a person's intelligence?
- 5) What is emotional intelligence?
- 6) What experiment was made to reveal the emotional intelligence of the group of children?
- 7) What are the key elements of emotional intelligence (according to Goleman or Salovey and Mayer)?
- 8) Characterize people with a high level of EQ. How do they behave? How do other people feel in their presence?
- 9) Is EQ important in professional sphere? Prove it.
- 10) Is it possible to improve EI and how?
- 11) What are the roles of IQ and EQ in a person's success?
- 12) Describe the experiment with writing the names of American states? What does it suggest?
- 13) What factors influence the processes of memorizing and recalling?
- 14) Are learning marathons useful and why?
- 15) Prove that learning is an active process.
- 16) What does active revision involve?
- 17) What background did Mozart have? Give other examples of child prodigies. What idea do these examples suggest?
- 18) What two styles of parental behaviour which help to develop their children's talents do you know? What is the difference between them? What style of parental behaviour is more likely to produce a genius?
- 19) What is Dr Sandra Scarr's point of view on the upbringing of children? Do you agree with Dr Sandra Scarr?

20) Do biological studies support Dr Sandra Scarr's point of view of genetic influence on talent?

21) Is the debate on the role of nature and nurture in producing genius finished? Why?

## **Topic 2. The Rules of Etiquette.**

**Texts: English Topic Supplement, pp. 93-108, A World Guide to Good Manners" (from Headway New Intermediate pp.40-41)**

*Speak about the rules of etiquette, their importance and the sphere of application.*

*Speak about the rules of behaviour in different countries. Give tips for travellers.*

*Speak about the rules of behaviour in different countries. Give tips for businessmen.*

*Speak about the rules of etiquette concerning invitations in different countries.*

1) What does the word etiquette mean to you? Is it necessary to know and observe the rules of etiquette and why?

2) What areas of life do the rules of etiquette embrace?

3) What did the expression "Ps and Qs" mean in the old days? Does it have the same meaning nowadays?

4) Explain the following: "The essence of good manners lies in the attitude".

5) What is the attitude to compliments in different parts of the world?

6) What is the polite way to accept a compliment?

7) Is it possible to ask personal questions in Britain? What is the attitude to personal questions in other countries?

8) Is it important to know the rules of behavior in different countries and why?

9) What is a good rule of behavior in a foreign country followed by sensitive travellers?

10) What Western ways of behavior may arouse contempt in other countries?

11) What are the rules of punctuality in different countries?

12) What is the attitude to elderly people and men in Africa?

13) Why is bargaining important in some countries?

14) What is the significance of invitation in different countries?

15) What are the rules of taking photographs in some countries?

16) Is it enough to learn a foreign language to avoid social mistakes in the country where it is spoken?

17) What is the difference between low-context and high-context cultures?

18) How do people greet each other in different countries?

19) Why is shaking hands fraught with complications?

20) What are the rules of handling business cards?

21) Why is it necessary to be careful about humour on formal occasions?

22) How to avoid confusion when you negotiate with the help of an interpreter?

23) How to avoid putting on the wrong clothes on formal occasions?

24) In Britain a member of the Royal family should never be the odd one out.

Give examples to illustrate this rule.

25) How to avoid mistakes when you are invited to the party?

26) How do "important" guests behave at the parties according to the research?

27) What does “potluck” mean?

***Additional Text “A World Guide to Good Manners” Headway New Intermediate pp.40-41)***

- 1) Which nationality are the most and the least punctual?
- 2) Why did the British think that everyone understood their customs?
- 3) Is discussing business matters while eating accepted in all countries?
- 4) What advice would you like to give to a person who is going to work in Japan?
- 5) What are the possible topics of conversation between strangers in Britain and the USA?
- 6) Give advice to a person who is going to travel round the world.

### **Topic 3. Nationality Stereotypes.**

**Texts: English Topic Supplement, pp. 84-92; Achievement pp.208-212, New English File Upper-Intermediate pp. 20-21**

*Speak about nationality stereotypes, their role in cultural awareness.*

*Speak about the American national character.*

*Speak about the British national character. Compare it with national characters of Scots and the Irish.*

*Speak about the Belarusian national character.*

- 1) What is a nationality stereotype? How much truth is there in such stereotypes?
- 2) What research of nationality stereotypes was made? What were the results?
- 3) Why is it difficult to define a typical American? What generalisations about Americans can be made?
- 4) What American social and cultural habits were adopted by Europeans?
- 5) What does “a throwaway culture” mean?
- 6) What habits and trends came from Europe to America?
- 7) Speak about the English national character.
- 8) Comment on the following features of the English character:  
self-discipline and self-control  
sense of humour  
modesty/humility  
honesty  
sense of privacy  
attitude to foreigners and foreign languages
- 9) How do the English like to spend their week-ends?
- 10) How is the English character manifested in their choice of a house/flat?
- 11) What three contrasts of the English character surprise foreigners?
- 12) What are the characteristic features of the Irish and Scots?
- 13) How can you describe the Belarusian national character?

## Topic 4. National Holidays and Celebrations.

**Texts: Enterprise 4, pp. 56-61. Macmillan Topics Festivals.**

*Speak about national holidays and celebrations. Consider the Rio Carnival, the Fallas Festival, the Tibetan Butter Lamp Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival.*

*Speak about the traditions of celebrating of the New Year in China, England and Scotland. Compare these traditions with the traditions of your country.*

- 1) When is the Rio Carnival celebrated? Where exactly does it take place?
- 2) What preparations for the Carnival take place?
- 3) How was the Rio Carnival celebrated in the past?
- 4) Where and when does the Oktoberfest start? What is available at the festival?
- 5) Where and when is the Fallas Fiesta held?
- 6) What happens during the Fallas Festival? What does the burning of fallas symbolize?
- 7) When is the Tibetan Butter Lamp Festival celebrated? What preparations are made?
- 8) What do Tibetan monks do with the statues and why?
- 9) Where and when is the Dragon boat festival celebrated?
- 10) Who was Qu Xuan?
- 11) Why did the Chinese throw rice dumplings into the river?
- 12) How is the Dragon Boat Festival celebrated nowadays?
- 13) When is the Chinese New Year celebrated? How do people prepare for the holiday?
- 14) What takes place on the New Year's Eve and the next two weeks?
- 15) How is New Year celebrated in London?
- 16) How is New Year's Eve called in Scotland? How is it celebrated?
- 17) Describe 'first footing' tradition.