

EPE TOPICS

1. FAMILY, FRIENDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- definition of family • different types of family (nuclear families, extended families, single parents, same sex families) • changing family structures • having children • parenting styles • functions of family • working parents • stay-at-home parents • maternity and paternity leave • divorce • future family concepts
- defining friendship • qualities of a true friend • different types of friendship (e.g. childhood/ adult friendship, online friends, etc) • differences between friends and acquaintances
- how to make a relationship work • what being in a relationship means • online dating • first love • true love • being single

2. HOBBIES, FREE-TIME ACTIVITIES AND CELEBRATING SPECIAL EVENTS

- different kinds of hobbies • different kinds of sports (e.g. team sports, extreme sports, trend sports, yoga, e-sports, outdoor/ indoor activities) • stress prevention • e-sports – chances and risks • traditional and modern forms of games • future trends
- reading • e-readers • future of books • reading habits • choosing a book • favourite book • genres • what makes a good book • book versus film • fiction versus non-fiction • classics • educational aspects of reading • benefits of reading
- traditions (Christmas, New Year, birthdays, etc) • graduating from university • personal achievements

3. HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- healthy lifestyle • stress relief • sports and exercise • keeping fit • why exercise is wise
- food pyramids • fast food • restaurants and eating out • food delivery services • healthy living/ lifestyles • school lunches • being on a diet • plant-based nutrition (vegetarians - fruitarians – vegans) • GM (genetically modified) food • food industry • eating disorders • alternative food sources • seasonal/ organic/ local food • food addictions • food allergies • healthy diet • food trends and food stylists
- smoking • alcohol • drug abuse • mental health issues

4. HOMES AND LIVING; COUNTRIES, CITIES, HOMETOWNS

- types of housing • moving out of your family home • city versus country life • living in remote areas • renting versus buying • dream house • green houses • tiny houses and micro apartments • student accommodation • living on your own versus living in a dorm/ shared flat • smart homes • suburban areas • megacities • cities of the future • urbanization • outdoor spaces • historic cities • modern cities • urban planning • moving and relocating • mobile living • differences between students' home towns and Vienna • green cities • banning cars from inner city centres • visions for the future (how life will be different in 20 years' time)

5. SHOPPING, CONSUMERISM, CLOTHES & FASHION

- shopping for happiness • shopaholics • second-hand products • ethical clothes • sustainable shopping trends • alternative shopping • online shopping • purchase decisions • marketing and marketing strategies • supermarket secrets / supermarket tricks • bargain hunting • spending/saving/ earning money • (fixed) expenses • cash or credit card • cashless society • future shopping trends
- fashion trends • fashion and the media • fashion industry • sustainable fashion • second-hand fashion • fashion icons and idols • life cycle of trends • back to basics • capsule wardrobe • fast fashion

6. WORLD OF WORK, JOBS

- different working places • working conditions • working environments • dream job • types of work • payment/ salary • qualifications, competences and skills (hard and soft skills) • work experience • internships • blue / white collar • work clothes • professional appearance • manual labour versus office work • employment/ career chances • unemployment • personal skills (strengths and weaknesses) • job application/CV • job interview • job descriptions • equal rights/opportunities of men and women • gender equality • jobs of the future • jobs and professions for young people • summer jobs • working as a teenager • money and job satisfaction • volunteering • jobs and family life • future work trends
- personal plans and aspirations for the future • where you see yourself in 20 years' time

7. EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY AND LANGUAGE LEARNING

- knowledge versus skills • old/ new teaching methods • flipped classroom • teacher/ student centred learning • fixed mindset versus growth mindset • language learning techniques • home-schooling • coeducation • public and private schools • comprehensive school • school uniforms • standardized testing • schools now and then • the Austrian school system • modern technologies at school • student exchange • language trips • lifelong learning • motivation • studying abroad • applying for university • university fees • school and personal development • what school/ learning will look like in 20 years' time
- language acquisition • English as a global language • how to learn a new language • traditional versus new/ digital methods • the perfect teacher • the perfect student • the perfect classroom • the perfect school • online learning/ tutoring • learning apps • using a language outside the classroom • mnemonic-techniques • (coping with stressful) exam situations

8. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

- types of media (traditional versus modern media, social media) • role of media today • media use today • young people and the news • watching TV - consumption and opinions of young people • fiction versus reality in films, shows • digital footprint – identity and privacy • newspapers (tabloids and broadsheets) • English as a global language • means of communication in the past and present • influences of modern technologies on communication • advantages and disadvantages of smartphone communication • intercultural communication • social networks • cyber bullying • trends, hypes and things going viral • trend setters • bloggers and vloggers • celebrities • peer pressure

9. TRAVEL, TOURISM, MEANS OF TRANSPORT

- different types of tourism • positive and negative aspects of tourism • problems of mass tourism (overtourism) and solutions • eco-tourism • sustainable tourism • planning a trip • trends in the tourism industry • target groups for various forms of tourism • marketing in tourism • (favourite) holiday destinations • traveller versus tourist • sustainable travel • Austria as a tourist country • tourism and the economy • trends in the tourism industry
- different means of transport • means of public transport • rush hour, traffic jams • commuting to/ from work • alternative forms of transport • carbon footprint • electric cars/ self-driving cars

10. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CHANGE

- (global aspects of) climate change – facts, reasons and how to prevent it • global warming • natural disasters • the weather • deforestation and greenhouse gases • forms of pollution and how to stop it • environmental footprint • energy production and the environment • (non) renewable energy (fossil fuels, solar energy, nuclear power plants, etc.) • effects of food production on the environment • protection of nature and the growth of modern cities • the role of the individual in fighting pollution and climate change • sustainability • biodiversity • animals at the brink of extinction • eco-friendly-lifestyles • how to minimise your ecological footprint • NGO initiatives (WWF, Greenpeace, Fridays for Future)