

Temas De Emergencia (Para la Guía De Fluidez)

Alternative beliefs

1. Do you think there is intelligent life on other planets?
2. Some people claim to have seen UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects) such as flying saucers. Do you believe them?
3. What is your opinion of people who say that they can communicate with spirits? Have you ever taken part in a séance?
4. Do you know anybody with psychic powers or extra sensory perception?
5. Do you believe in telepathy? Is there another person in the world with whom you have a special understanding?
6. Would you ever visit an astrologer for a forecast of how your life will run in the future?
7. What does your star sign tell you about your personality and your compatibility with other people?

Animal Rights

1. Many vegetarians believe that factory farming is a cruel and unnecessary practice and that our diets would be healthier if we ate less meat. Do you agree?
2. Animal rights protesters argue that the export of live animals for slaughter is uncivilized and should be prohibited under international law. Do you agree?
3. "Keeping animals in zoos and circuses to entertain human-beings is selfish and inhumane." Do you agree?
4. Bullfighting, fox-hunting and whale-hunting are part of some countries' traditions. Do you think that Spain, England and Japan have a right to continue these traditions?
5. "The British spend far too much money on household pets. They would do better to have fewer cats and dogs and to use the money to help poor and hungry people." What do you think?
6. Would you ever wear a fur coat?

The Arts

1. Do you think that the tax payer should have to support the Arts? For example, why should a football fan have to pay for opera?
2. Does your country have any well-known artists who are famous for cinema, theatre, literature, ballet, opera, classical music or painting?
3. What are your "top three" art forms from the above list? Explain the reasons for your order of preference.
4. In what ways were you encouraged to appreciate the Arts at home and at school? What jobs in the Arts world would be suitable for you?
5. Give the names of your favourite novel, author, play, dramatist, film, film director, musical composition, composer, painting and painter. Why do you like them?
6. Which country would you visit to appreciate the Arts? What would you plan to see?
7. Do you think there should be greater or less censorship of the Arts in your country?

Crime & Punishment

1. Should the death penalty exist as a punishment for murder or terrorism?
2. Should the main purpose of prison be punishment or rehabilitation?
3. What is the best way to deal with juvenile crime such as
 - a. joy-riding?
 - b. vandalism?
 - c. graffiti?
1. Is it ever right for political activists to break the law?
2. How strict should the law be with people who drink and drive?
3. Which is the more serious problem in your country - tax evasion or social security fraud?
4. Should the police have the right to stop and search you in the street without a warrant?
5. Should the law respect the rights of homeless people to squat in unoccupied property or shop doorways?
6. Should smoking cannabis be a criminal offence?

Cultural Differences

1. "Cultural differences cause problems. It is better for people to stay in their own countries rather than to migrate to other ones." Do you agree?
2. Would you prefer to live in a monoculture or a multi-racial society? Why?
3. "It is better to study major international languages like English rather than to spend time on minority languages for the sake of regional identity." Do you agree?
4. "Governments should give regions in their countries more autonomy so that they can protect and enjoy their own cultures rather than serving the centralized policies of the capital city." Do you agree?
5. Is it better to marry someone of the same cultural background?
6. "Religion as a school subject should include all the major world religions - not only the majority religion in the country concerned." Do you agree?
7. How do you think "British Culture" differs from "N. American Culture"? How do these cultures differ from the culture of your own country?

Economics

1. "Low tax, Laissez-Faire, economies are better than ones with large public sectors." Do you agree?
2. "It is better to be within large economic unions like the European Community rather than outside them." Do you agree?
3. "Governments should legislate to prevent monopolies becoming too powerful." Do you agree?
4. "Free trade policies are always better than protectionist ones."
5. "Governments should not subsidize enterprises which are unprofitable."
6. "Countries should try to become self-sufficient in food and basic necessities." Do you agree?
7. "Giving financial incentives to companies which locate themselves in underdeveloped regions is a waste of public money. It is better to let them set up where they want to be." Do you agree?
8. "Introducing the minimum wage will encourage foreign investors to take their enterprises elsewhere."

Education

1. Would you prefer to send your child to a mixed or single sex school?
2. Is day school always a better alternative to boarding school?
3. Should rich people be permitted to buy educational advantages by sending their children to private schools or should all schools be run by the state?
4. Do you prefer a system where children are put in fast and slow streams or is it better to create mixed ability classes?
5. Should corporal punishment be permitted in schools?
6. Which system do you favour for measuring children's progress - final examinations or continuous assessment?
7. Do the "three Rs" (Reading, Writing and Arithmetic) make up the most important part of the school curriculum?

The Environment

1. Does the environment belong principally to the human race?
2. Do your consumption habits destroy the habitats of other species?
3. Do you think that developers should be permitted to build big hotels and tourist complexes in the most beautiful places in your country?
4. Should the private motorist be made to pay more heavily through higher road tax, petrol prices, parking fees and motorway tolls?
5. Should cars be banned from city, town and village centres?
6. Are you for or against nuclear power?
7. Does your country need stricter laws to punish noisy neighbours or discos which play loud music late at night?
8. Are your country's seas, rivers and / or lakes clean to swim in?
9. What government and private campaigns are there in your country to protect and improve the environment? Are these campaigns motivated by concern for the lives and habitats of species other than our own?

Fashion

1. Have you ever bought something because it was fashionable? If so, what?
2. Does the fashion industry exist mainly to persuade people to spend money on things they do not really need?
3. Is fashion selfish in a world where many people have not got what they need?
4. Do you think fashion models should be used to sell products such as cars?
5. Some fashion models refuse to advertise products involving animal cruelty such as cosmetics and fur coats. Would you buy such products?
6. Would you like to be a fashion model if you were offered the opportunity?
7. Is your country famous for any fashion products? Which ones? How are they marketed?
8. Which countries have the best and worst fashions in clothes?
9. Which products advertised on TV in Britain/USA/Australia and in your country represent (a) women's fashion (b) men's fashion ?

Food

1. "The government should make it more expensive for farmers to use pesticides and more profitable for them to grow organic food."
2. Which age-group in your country eats most fast and convenience food? What could be done to encourage these people to eat more fresh food?
3. Should the law limit the number of fast food restaurants in our towns?
4. Should suppliers be permitted to irradiate fruit and vegetables to make them stay greener for longer on the shop shelves?
5. Do you think you can get all the nourishment you need from a vegetarian diet? Would you be happy to eat a vegetarian diet for a week?
6. The Hay diet encourages you to separate protein from carbohydrate, while the Chinese "Ying & Yang" diet encourages balanced eating. Can you describe any special diets which are followed in your country?
7. Should countries try to grow all their own food or is it better to depend on trade to meet your food needs?

Health

1. "Governments should provide a first class National Health Service for everybody so that nobody would want to pay for private treatment."
2. "Most nurses are overworked and underpaid." Do you agree?
3. "People who have damaged their health through smoking or drinking should be at the back of the queue for expensive treatments."
4. Do people have the right to smoke when children in the same house or colleagues in the same office have to inhale the smoke?
5. "Everybody should be compulsorily tested for HIV to allow the authorities to monitor and counter the spread of AIDS."
6. "Alternative therapies should be recognised and licenced under the NHS to include (a) acupuncture (b) homeopathy (c) aromatherapy & massage (d) meditation (e) yoga (f) hypnosis and (g) faith healing."
7. "Western doctors prescribe drugs and medicines too freely since they do not have time to treat patients as individuals." Do you agree? Do you think other systems such as Chinese Medicine are any better?

Holidays

1. Do you prefer to book holidays through travel agents or to make your own arrangements? Describe your best and worst holidays?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of TWO of the following forms of holiday accommodation:
(a) five star hotel (b) budget hotel (c) guest house (d) bed & breakfast (e) self-catering villa (f) farmyard cottage (g) ocean liner (h) student family (i) youth hostel (j) caravan (k) tent (l) canal boat ?
3. Which form of accommodation did you have on your last holiday? Were you satisfied with it?
4. Which form of accommodation would you prefer for your next holiday and how many people would you like to accompany you?
5. What are your favourite holiday activities?
6. Has your country been spoilt by tourist developments?

Language Learning

1. Describe "the good language learner" according to the following criteria:
 - a. woman or man
 - b. old or young
 - c. extrovert or introvert
 - d. other characteristics
 - e. habits
 - f. abilities (including study skills)
 - g. motivation and interests
2. In what ways are you a good or bad language learner?
3. How many languages can you speak and how well can you speak them?
4. "Fluency in a language is more important than accuracy". Do you agree?
5. Are you satisfied with the way languages are taught in your country?
6. Do tourists often try to speak your language when they visit your country?
7. "Every child should learn to speak a second language." Do you agree?
8. Which should be the official world language - English or Esperanto?

Male & Female Roles

1. Belinda Brooks-Gordon, a university psychologist, has done research showing that men in a top international company categorise women into five groups:

- Babes (young and attractive women with little professional credibility)
- Mums (considered unattractive and ignored by male traders)
- Lesbians (feminists)
- Dragons (women considered old or unattractive, rudely treated)
- One-of-the-boys (women who behave like men - only they progress)

In your country, do women have equal opportunities in the work-place, for example: the same pay and promotion opportunities as men? Are they categorised?

2. Is it easy for women to continue their careers after taking time off work to start a family? Do companies provide crèches or nurseries?

3. Do parents and teachers in your country encourage girls and boys to grow up differently? Do they play with the same toys? Do they receive the same education at school and university?

4. Do you think women and men should perform the same or different roles? Are men usually the bread-winners and women usually the home-makers in your country?

Marriage

1. Are you for or against trial marriages i.e. living together outside marriage to test your compatibility?
2. Do you think that marriage should be for life? Should divorce be made easier or more difficult?
3. Why do you think that the divorce rate has become so high in Australia and many other countries?
4. Is it better to marry someone of the same educational, social, cultural and racial background?
5. Is it better to marry someone of approximately the same age? Should the man be older than the woman?
6. How important is the religious aspect of marriage to you? Which aspects are more important, if any?
7. Should it be legal to marry more than one partner at the same time?
8. Should it be legal to marry someone of the same sex? Should marriages between gay and lesbian partners be recognised by the church?

The Media

1. In Australia, tabloid newspapers, which contain mostly gossip and pin-ups of good-looking women and men, sell many more copies than serious newspapers. Do readers in your country have the same interests?
2. Do reporters and photographers respect the private lives of famous people in your country? How much freedom should the press be allowed by law?
3. Is the media in your country mainly owned by a few large monopolies? Should the law allow ownership of several newspapers or TV channels?
4. Is there a bias towards any particular political party or interest group in your country's media?
5. Which would you prefer (a) TV channels without advertising paid for by a licence fee (b) Free TV channels paid for by advertising or (c) Pay-as-you-view TV where you only pay for what you watch?
6. In Australia, there are restrictions on what can be screened on TV before 9 p.m. Do you think that TV programme content should be censored?

Political Systems

1. Would you prefer to live in:
 - a class-less society, regulated by a democratically elected government or
 - a society with all levels of income and wealth, regulated by the free market including the power of multinational companies?
2. Should important utilities such as water, gas and electricity be under government or private ownership? How is it in your country?
3. Should social services such as schools, hospitals, prisons and social security, be provided mainly from the public purse, or should more be left to the private sector? How is it in your country?
4. Do Trade Unions serve a useful purpose and should every worker have the right to join one?
5. Should political power be limited to people who have been democratically elected? Is Monarchy now out of date?
6. Should political parties and politicians have to publish all their sources of income, including private donations?
7. Should political power be regionalized or centralized?

Religion

1. The universe is controlled by a God who rewards good and punishes wrong-doing.
2. True religion is incompatible with war.
3. There is life after death - for example, heaven, hell or reincarnation.
4. The story of Adam and Eve is not to be believed. Darwin's theory of evolution is more credible.
5. It is impossible for the rich to be truly religious. That's why Christians have Lent and Muslims have Ramadham.
6. It is better to have any religion than to be atheist or agnostic.
7. Do people have *free will* to choose between right or wrong or are our choices determined by hereditary and environmental influences?
8. Are the ten commandments out of date? Which rules do you think are needed for religion or society today?

Rich & Poor

1. What kind of aid should the governments of rich countries give to poor countries?
2. "Population control is more important in rich countries than in poor countries since rich babies consume much more of the world's resources than poor ones."
3. "Economic Unions made up of rich countries are a form of protectionism which prevents fair trade with Third World countries."
4. "Economic colonialism where multinational companies provide most of the work opportunities is just as bad as colonialism where poor countries belong to rich ones."
5. "It is right for rich countries to have strict immigration controls to stop people from poorer countries entering them and sharing in their better standard of living."
6. "Immigration should not be limited to people of similar race and culture. We should welcome the opportunity of a truly multi-racial society."
7. "Everybody should be encouraged to do Voluntary Service Overseas (i.e. to live and work in the Third World) so that we can understand the problems of poorer countries and make a contribution to help them."
8. Would you like to be an overseas volunteer in a Third World country? If so, which one and how could you contribute to that country's development?
9. Are *the poor* poor because they are poor or because they are lazy?

Science & Technology

1. "Scientific measures should be standardized throughout the world. We should all use the metric system all of the time."
2. "Science is more important than religion in today's world."
3. What do you think are the main dangers of scientific advances? What laws do you think we need to protect societies from these dangers?
4. Have computers changed society for the better or for the worse?
5. Are you computer literate? Which software applications do you know?
6. Did you have lessons in Science and Technology at school? Were they well taught?
7. Would you prefer your child to study Arts or Science subjects?
8. Do you think Science will (a) end the world (b) save the world or (c) do neither?

Society

1. Should governments use the welfare system to encourage people to live within two parent families?
2. At what age should a son or daughter be permitted to leave home?
3. Should young people be allowed to buy contraceptives as soon as they reach puberty?
4. Should the age of consent be the same for both gays and heterosexuals?
5. Should gays and heterosexuals have the same right to join the armed forces?
6. Should abortion be available to women on demand?
7. Should euthanasia be available to people in great pain who want to die?
8. Is it possible to pass effective laws against racism?
9. Do you believe in a high tax economy (e.g. Sweden) which distributes money to education and health or a low tax economy (e.g. the U.S.A.) where people make private provision for good services?

Sport

1. Which is more important in sport - winning or taking part? Are you a good loser?
2. Should we always try to keep politics out of sport?
3. What are the most important events in the sporting calendar in your country? Which of these events do you enjoy most? Why?
4. Is it easy to take part in sport in your country? Which sports do you do and how often do you take part?
5. Who are your sporting heroes and heroines? Why do you admire them?
6. Should the Olympic Games be held only in Greece or should they change between different countries? Where would you like to see them held next time?
7. Do you think that boxing is a true sport? Should it be included in the Olympic Games?
 1. Should it be made illegal?
8. Which is your favourite sport to watch and what do you think are the qualities of a good team or a true champion in that sport?

Traditions

1. Do children in your country learn traditional songs which their grandparents also know? What are these songs about? What instruments are used to play these songs?
2. Does your country have any traditional dances for special ceremonies at different times of the year? Describe the dances and the traditional dance costumes.
3. In Australia, there is a long tradition of playing cricket and tennis in the summer and football and rugby at other times of the year. What are the traditional sports in your country? Is your country still good at these sports? Describe the traditional clothing.
4. Traditional food in Britain includes roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, fish & chips and haggis while traditional drinks include beer (best bitter) and whisky. What traditional food and drinks do you have in your country?
5. In Australia, when you are invited to a dinner party, it is traditional to bring a bottle of wine and flowers or chocolates for the hostess. It is normal to arrive on time, but not too early. What happens in your country?
9. Describe a traditional wedding ceremony in your country.
10. Describe the traditions relating to your country's Royal Family, Centre of Government or System of Justice.

Transport

1. Which is your favourite means of private transport?
2. Do you drive a car? When did you learn to drive? What make of car do you drive?
3. What skills do you need to practise to pass the driving test in your country? Did you pass your test first time? What do you find most difficult about driving?
4. Which is your favourite kind of public transport -
 - a. buses or trains?
 - b. ships or planes?
1. How do you usually travel to work or college in your country?
2. How did you get from your home in your country to your host mother's house?
3. Are you in favour of more road building to create more space for the private motorist in your country?
4. Do you think that more cycle lanes are needed in your own town or city? What would be some of the problems in providing more facilities for cyclists?

Violence

1. "There should be strict censorship of films and news bulletins on television to prevent children from copying violent incidents." Do you agree?
2. "Children's cartoons such as Tom & Jerry and Popeye teach children the wrong lessons." Do you agree?
3. "Television cameras should not record crowd disturbances during sporting events such as football matches." What do you think?
4. "Combat sports such as boxing where the aim is to injure your opponent should be banned and should certainly not be part of the Olympic Games." Do you agree?
5. "Products such as pornographic videos and rap music which give expression to violence against women should be withdrawn from sale." Do you agree?
6. "In most countries, military training which prepares people for violence against an enemy, should be replaced by schemes to serve the community." Do you agree?
7. "Nobody should be permitted to own a hand gun for a hobby." What do you think?
8. "Combat knives should be made illegal." Do you agree?

Work

1. What ratio of work to leisure would be your ideal? Answer using percentages.
2. Are the people in your country famous for working hard or for having a good social life?
3. What jobs would you most and least like to do?
4. What jobs have you done in your life and what did you like and dislike about them?
5. Which age-groups are worst affected by unemployment in your country? Should people who have never worked before be entitled to unemployment benefit?
6. What are the causes of unemployment and how is the problem solved in your country?
7. Do women in your country have equality of job opportunities? Are they paid as well as men?
8. Are there many migrant workers in your country? If so, what kind of jobs do they do? What are their working conditions like?

Youth & Old Age

1. Are young people generally more selfish than their parents and grandparents?
2. What do you think is the best age to be? Explain your opinion.
3. Should young people have to do some form of military or community service by law?
4. Should people of between 60 and 65 be obliged to retire from their jobs in order to make way for younger workers?
5. Are there many things that the old can teach the young or are they hopelessly out of touch by the time they reach a certain age?
6. In most countries, compulsory education is targeted at 5 - 16 year olds. Would it be better to offer it to pensioners who want to learn rather than young people who prefer not to be in school?
7. In Russia, China and many other countries, there is a tradition of choosing leaders who are advanced in years. Do you think that older people make better leaders?
8. Many elderly people have disabilities which limit their mobility. Do buses, shops and public buildings in your country provide easy access for the disabled or are your towns and cities designed mainly for the young and able-bodied?
9. Should the elderly be expected to pay for residential care out of their own savings or should appropriate accommodation and nursing be provided by the tax payer?