

- **Is culture a part of your life? Do you keep up with contemporary culture?**

Yes, I... follow all the cultural events / go to the cinema / theatre / museums / exhibitions... No, I don't have time... I prefer doing / playing sports to attending cultural events... I'd rather spend time at home... Going to the cinema / concerts is expensive.

- **What type of movies do you usually watch? Why?**

I like / prefer to watch / love / adore... comedies / thrillers / musicals / horror movies / dramas / historical films / romantic comedies / animated films / documentaries... because they are entertaining / address interesting issues / are full of suspense / you can learn about life in the past or in different countries.

- **Who is your favourite actor / actress or director? Why do you like him/her?**

My favourite actor / actress / director... My idol... The actor I admire / prefer is... I like him / her because... he / she acts well / makes good films / makes me laugh / is very convincing in his / her roles.

- **Where do you watch films? Which do you prefer?**

I watch films at the cinema / on television / on DVD / on the internet... It's better / I prefer to watch films / I like watching films this way because... I like to stay at home / I can watch what I want / I won't be disturbed by other people... because I can go out with my friends / the seats are more comfortable / the sound and picture quality is better.

- **How much are you influenced by film reviews? Why?**

Very much. I read film reviews all the time, and if a good reviewer recommends a movie, I go to see it... They sometimes influence me / I'm interested in the opinion of film reviewers and I might go if they recommend something I've never heard of before. / Not at all, I never read film reviews. Whether or not I like a film is entirely up to me / is my own decision.

- **Do you often go to the theatre? Where have you been?**

Yes, I go about once a month with my family / friends. I go rarely and it's mostly with the school. I never go because I hate / can't stand / don't like the theatre. I've been to the National Theatre / the local theatre in my town / to alternative theatres... I've even been to the theatre in London.

- **How different is watching a play at the theatre from watching a movie at the cinema / on TV? Which do you prefer?**

A play is very different from a film. A play is more direct / immediate / emotional. A play relies more on the dialogue and acting... A film relies more on camera angles and special effects... A play usually happens at one precise moment... A film can be as long or as short as the director wants... Plays and films are essentially the same... the only difference is that a play is 'live'.

- **What other types of performances can you see in a theatre?**

Apart from plays, you can also see pantomimes / operas / musicals / ballet / stand-up comedy / revues / cabaret / dramatic monologues / poetry readings.

- **Where do you go to see art?**

You can see paintings / sculpture / photography and installations... in museums / galleries / art spaces / exhibition spaces / in parks / on the street / in cafes.

- **Which type of art do you prefer?**

I like / prefer / adore... paintings / landscapes / portraits / historical scenes / classical scenes / religious scenes / realistic sculpture / abstract sculpture / photos of real life / nature / Impressionist / Surrealist / Cubist / Abstract / Expressionist art.

- **Who are your favourite painters, sculptors and photographers? Why do you like them?**

I adore / love... the painter / photographer / sculptor... because he / she is classical / traditional / controversial / innovative / uses bold colours / has a great use of light.

- **What types of musical events do you attend? Where are these events held?**

I go to rock / jazz / hip hop / classical... concerts / recitals / outdoor festivals / concert halls / entertainment centres / sports halls / pubs / clubs / parks.

- **What styles of music do you like? And what don't you like?**

I like / love / adore / prefer / am into... classical music / rock / pop... I listen to... jazz / soul / blues. I can't stand / hate / don't care about... hip hop / folk.

- **Do you play an instrument?**

Yes, I play the guitar / the drums / the flute / the saxophone / bass / the piano / the violin.

- **Should cultural events (e.g. films, exhibitions or plays) be censored? Why / why not? What's acceptable / not acceptable to display?**

Yes, the public should not see violence / sex... even if it is in art... because we must protect children... because it can influence people to do bad things... No, because artists / musicians / playwrights / film-makers have a right to express themselves... they are only representing what happens in reality... art is a mirror to the world... people need to be shocked.

- **Can culture be political or should it only entertain? Why do you think so?**

It should be political, because art can say something more powerful than news / books... because politics is part of life and art shows us life... an artist has a right to discuss whatever he or she wants, including politics... No, art is only to entertain / express beauty. Politics in art takes away the beauty of the piece... art should be about more personal themes.

Maturita Card 50: Shopping

- **Do you like shopping? How much time do you spend shopping?**

I love shopping. If I had more money, I would go shopping all the time. I go every week and help my parents at the supermarket / I take my Gran shopping / I love spending time at the shopping centre. I like shopping at the weekends with my friends and going into town. I hate / don't like shopping. It's boring / there are too many people / big queues (BrE) / long lines (AmE) / it's a waste of my time / I avoid shopping if I can / I go only a couple of times a year.

- **What do you buy?**

I buy clothes / make up / CDs / books / computer games / gadgets. I like browsing / walking around without buying anything / I go window shopping. When I have to go shopping, it's usually to buy clothes / try on clothes / get something for school / buy food or things for the house. I like shopping for presents for other people / Christmas shopping.

- **Where do you go shopping and why?**

I normally go to the town centre / to a big city like Prague / Brno / Ostrava because there is more choice. I prefer a large shopping centre because everything is under one roof / it's all in one place / I have more choice / it's cheaper. I always try to shop locally / go to smaller shops because they are friendlier / the goods are better quality / they sell products that you can't buy everywhere. I shop online / on the internet / get things from a catalogue so I don't have to go to the shops.

- **What are the differences between a shopping centre, a department store and a high street?**

A shopping centre (BrE) / mall (AmE) is a large covered area / building where you can find lots of shops (BrE) / stores (AmE) selling different things – for example, clothes, books, toys, shoes and sports equipment. A department store is one large shop with several floors / departments that sell different things – for example clothing on one floor, electronics on another floor. A high street (BrE) / main street (AmE) is a street with a lot of shops on it. You can walk along the street and visit the shops.

- **What is the difference between a chain and an independent or local shop?**

A chain of shops (BrE) / chain store (AmE) means many shops owned by the same company. They all have the same name and sell the same products – for example, Starbucks / Tesco / H&M. Independent shops are owned by individuals / are usually smaller.

They sell different / unique products that you can't buy in other places.

- **What different types of shop can you find and what do they sell?**

Grocery shops / stores sell food. Greengrocers sell fruits and vegetables. A bakery sells bread / cakes / rolls. A butcher sells different types of meat. A pet shop / store is a shop that sells everything you need for your pet, such as food, treats and toys. A shoe shop specialises in shoes and boots. A computer / electronics shop sells everything you need for your computer / printer / sells electronic equipment. A hardware shop / store like OBI / Bauhaus sells things for your house and garden. There are sweet shops, stationers (BrE) / stationery stores (AmE), tobacconists, clothing shops, chemists (BrE) / drugstores (AmE), bookshops, jewellers, toy stores, second-hand shops...

- **Can you describe the different jobs you can find in shops?**

The cashier is the person who works at the cash desk where you pay. A shop manager runs / manages the store. A sales assistant is someone who helps customers if they have a question. A shopkeeper is someone who owns a small independent shop. A merchandiser / buyer is someone who selects which products the store will buy / sell. Security guards are people who keep the shop safe / prevent people from stealing goods.

- **Can you describe what 'sales' are?**

A sale / discount is when goods are sold for a lower price than the original / when you can buy something for half price / get some money off the product. Big sales are usually on after Christmas / at the end of summer / when the shops are trying to sell leftover stock.

- **Do you buy things on the internet? What do you think about internet shopping?**

I always / sometimes shop online / have never used a computer for shopping. I think it's a good idea because you can buy lots of different things / it's easy / it's cheaper / you don't have to leave your home / if you want to buy something unusual, it's easier to find online. The downside is that you might get the wrong product / wrong size / the product may not come / the postage is expensive. Internet shopping is good for people who can't get to the shops / is bad because it means people are not shopping in traditional shops anymore and independent shops are closing.