

## **Young people and their world**

**Táto téma je rozdelená do dvoch maturitných otázok.**

### **Topic**

- 1. Present characteristics of teenagers, their interests, opinions, fashion.**
- 2. Comment time for study and time for hobbies.**
- 3. Discuss relationship with family members, friends and classmates.**
- 4. Characterize the generation gap and its main problems.**
- 5. Describe your plans and dreams for future.**
- 6. Analyze life of adults ages 20-30, their views, hobbies, possible problems.**
- 7. Interpret their opportunities for studying, working, earning and living.**
- 8. Discuss love, marriage, looking after children.**
- 9. List reasons for using alcohol, drugs and smoking of the young generation.**
- 10. Talk about young people and their future plans- career, personal life.**
- 11. Your plans and dreams for the future.**

- 1. Present characteristics of teenagers, their interests, opinions, fashion.**

**Adolescence is a stage of development between childhood and adulthood. People from the age of thirteen to the age of nineteen are called teenagers because their age ends in teen. During puberty, most children go through dramatic physical changes. Their emotional life is more intensive. Young people often feel unstable and look for security. Love and friendship become the most important values and their search for their unique identity. They follow fashion trends and want to be in. They don't trust the authorities. They are under pressure because they usually start and complete their secondary education and have to make decision about their future career. They prefer relations with peers, not parents. They would like to be independent, but they are still financially dependent on their parents.**

Teenagers are a diverse group, so their characteristics, interests, opinions, and fashion can vary widely. However, here are some general trends and common traits often associated with teenagers:

Interests:

Technology: they are deeply engaged with smartphones, social media, and online platforms.

Music: Many teenagers are passionate about music, with various genres appealing to different individuals.

Sports and Hobbies: Teens may have specific interests like sports, arts, gaming, ...

Opinions: Teenagers often explore their identities, forming strong opinions as they shape their beliefs and values.

Self-Expression: Fashion is often a means of self-expression for teenagers, allowing them to showcase their individuality.

It's important to note that these are generalizations, and individual teenagers may have unique interests, opinions, and styles. Building open communication and understanding with teenagers helps to appreciate their individuality while acknowledging these common aspects of adolescence.

## **2. Comment time for study and time for hobbies.**

Most of young people attend secondary schools and prepare themselves for their future professions. They can study at different types of schools- at grammar school, at secondary school, vocational school. They usually go to school by car, bus, train. If they live nearby, they walk. School starts at 8:00 and ends at approximately 13:00, depending on what day it is. We learn 5 days a week. From Monday to Friday. After school, we go home to learn. If the next day is freer, we spend time with friends. Some may go to extracurricular activities, work out to the gym, or spend time with family.

## **3. Discuss relationship with family members, friends and classmates.**

One of the most important influence on young people is influence of their friends. Friends are great value in the lives of young people. They share common opinions, experiences and feelings, they help each other. On the other side, there are also young people who grow up as outsiders, which can have a great influence on their mental condition.

Many teenagers have conflicts with their parents. Young people often criticize parents' conservative lifestyle. They complain that they don't have enough freedom. They don't like when their parents criticize their friends, clothes or hairstyle. Nowadays parents have less and less time for children. Some families do not talk together about problems. In extreme cases children run away from home.

On the other hand, parents and older generation think that they are rude, impolite, irresponsible, unreliable, lazy, use rude and abusive language, they don't study enough and have bad marks. They also complain that teenagers don't respect older generation and don't think about the future.

These misunderstandings between parents and children is called generation gap.

**Parental Influence:** Parents play a significant role in shaping a teenager's values, beliefs, and behaviors. A supportive and communicative family environment fosters a sense of security and self-esteem.

**Peer Influence:** Friendships become increasingly important during adolescence, and peer influence can have a substantial impact on a teenager's choices and behaviors. Strong friendships provide emotional support, understanding, and a sense of belonging. Healthy peer relationships contribute to positive mental health.

**Classmates:** Relationships with classmates can vary widely. Some teenagers may form close bonds, while others may have more casual interactions.

**School Environment:** The school setting is a crucial social space where teenagers develop social skills, learn to navigate group dynamics, and form friendships that can extend beyond the classroom.

**Viac k tomuto bodu je aj v téme Human relationships.**

#### **4. Charakterize the generation gap and its main problems.**

GG is usually between parents and children or between teenagers and grandparents. Young people think that older people don't understand them – they don't like their music, the way of clothing, their hairstyles, the slang which young people use. Young people consider older people very old-fashioned.

Young people are eager to become adults, but at the same time doubt about taking on adult responsibilities and freedom. They think that their parents are overprotective. They have often different life expectations than their parents. They differ in clothing, hairstyles, spending of free time,...

#### **6. Analyze life of adults ages 20-30, their views, hobbies, possible problems.**

Young people at the age of 20 to 30 are a bit different than the young teenagers. Most of them have finished their study and they are looking for a job. It's not easy for them to find a suitable job because they don't have enough experiences. This can cause their frustration and financial problems. The lucky ones who have found their jobs start earning the living. Some of them get married and have children. They usually live in a rented flat. Many of these young people still live with their parents. They don't have so much free time as the younger ones because they need to work and take care of the family. They are more responsible. Some of them can't find their job in Slovakia, so they migrate to another country which is not easy.

#### **7. Interpret their opportunities for studying, working, earning and living.**

Young people have a lot of opportunities to study. They can choose from a variety of secondary schools and universities. They can attend a private or state school in Slovakia or they study abroad. After their study/graduation some of them like travelling and visiting new countries. The others start looking for their jobs. It's very difficult for them because they have a lack of skills and experiences. Unemployment in some parts of Slovakia is also very high. Many young

people nowadays choose to live and work abroad because they can earn more money than in Slovakia. Some of them study in the foreign country and some of them return back.

### **8. Discuss love, marriage, looking after children.**

At this age is love for young people the strongest and the most important feeling. They usually find their future partner and live together in cohabitation or they get married. Many people nowadays start their own family much later than in the past. They are engaged for a longer time and they get married later because they want to earn some money and build their career first. They can't afford to buy their own flat. Young families are different nowadays. In modern families the married couple shares household chores and husbands can also stay with a child on maternity leave.

### **9. List reasons for using alcohol, drugs and smoking of the young generation.**

Young people may turn to alcohol, drugs, and smoking due to social pressures, seeking acceptance, and fitting in. Some of them become addicted to alcohol and drugs. First they are curious and want to try it, but later they can't stop. Alcohol and drugs have ruined many young lives. For some of them is alcohol a way of solving problems and escaping from reality. Many parents try to help them, but it must be children's decision to stop. In some families are parents addicted to alcohol and drugs, they are very bad example for their children. In some families aggressiveness dominates and parents are very rude on children.

### **10. Talk about young people and their future plans- career, personal life.**

When young people finish secondary school, they have different future plans. Some of them want to study at university, some of them want to work and earn money. Those who finish university have a title and they are searching for a job. They usually want to do something what they studied about. Nowadays, it's very hard to find a job because we need to have skills and a lot of knowledge. I think that every young person wants to have a family in his/her future. Young people want to have children, husband and some place for living. Some of them want to live in a big or small house or in a flat. Many young couples who want to live together, must take a mortgage because they haven't got so much money to buy their own flat or house.

### **5. , 11. Your plans and dreams for the future.**

After a final exam I would like to study at university in Liptovský Mikuláš. I would like to study military. I hope and I believe in myself that I successfully finish this university. I would like to have a beautiful family which consists of my responsible, faithful, careful, honest husband who will love me and our children too. I would like to live in a house in a town somewhere in a beautiful part of Slovakia. We will live there together and happily. I have one big dream which I hope to perform in my close future. I would like to try a bungee jumping. I think that it is very exciting and amazing thing.

## Role play

**You have a younger brother/sister. He/she is a bit lazy and spends most of his/her time with teenage friends going to discos, listening to music, watching videos. Try to persuade him/ her that everybody should have some duties. Suggest a few changes in his/her lifestyles concerning household, grandparents, school results, sports activities, etc.**

- Talk with brother/sister
- Ask her/him to change
- Ask her/him to help with household chores
- Tell him/her to learn more
- Tell her/him to go to discos less
- Tell her/him to go out with his friends when he's got everything done.

Young people: teenagers, teens, adolescents, youngsters, minors

Mladí ľudia: tínedžeri, tínedžeri, mladiství, mladiství, maloletí

Physical appearance of the young: going through physical changes (boys: facial hair, building muscle mass, deeper, voice. Girls: breasts enlarge, hips widen), piercing, tattoo, baggy/shabby/casual/tight clothes, spiky/coloured/highlighted hair

Fyzický vzhľad mládeže: prechádza telesnými zmenami (chlapci: ochĺpenie na tvári, budovanie svalovej hmoty, hlbší hlas; dievčatá: zväčšujú sa prsia, rozširujú boky), piercing, tetovanie, vrecovité/ošúchané/neformálne/tesné oblečenie, špicaté/melírované vlasy

Characteristics of the young: searching for a unique identity, identifying with role-models, obsession with own appearance; independent, unstable, worried, puzzled, careless, frustrated, easygoing, reluctant, inhibited, amicable, cheerful, confused, curious, moody, stubborn, self-reliant, self-aware, rebellious, reckless, struggling

Vlastnosti mladých: hľadanie jedinečnej identity, stotožňovanie sa so vzormi, posadnutosť vlastným vzhľadom; nezávislý, nestabilný, ustaraný, zmätený, neopatrný, frustrovaný, ľahkomyselný, nechotný, brzdený, priateľský, veselý, zmätený, zvedavý, náladový, tvrdohlavý, sebestačný, sebavedomý, rebelský, bezohľadný, zápasiaci

Common problems of the young: eating disorders (bulimia, anorexia, overeating, obesity), mental disorders, schizophrenia, social/educational/peer pressure, gambling, drinking, addiction to drugs, unemployment, bullying, violence, vandalism, teenage pregnancy

Poruchy príjmu potravy (bulímia, anorexia, prejedanie sa, obezita), duševné poruchy, schizofrénia, sociálny/výchovný/rovesnícky tlak, hazardné hry, pitie, drogová závislosť, nezamestnanosť, šikanovanie, násilie, vandalizmus, tínedžerstvo tehotenstvo

activities/relationship with peers: to make friends, to hang out with friends, to fall in love, to have a date, giving/going to parties, to get on with peers

Aktivity/vzťah s rovesníkmi: spriatelit' sa, stretnúť sa s priateľmi, zamilovať sa, mať rande, darovať sa, chodiť na večierky, vychádzať s rovesníkmi

relationship with adults/parents: less emotionally bound to parents, conflicts, arguments, fights, misunderstandings, broken relationships

Vzťah s dospelými/rodičmi: menej citovo viazaný na rodičov, konflikty, hádky, bitky, nedorozumenia, narušené vzťahy

Generation gap: parents' approach: overprotective/authoritarian/liberal/democratic, different priorities. life expectations, tension

Generačná priepasť: prístup rodičov: príliš ochranársky/autoritársky/liberálny/demokratický, odlišné priority. životné očakávania, napätie

The future of the young: desire for freedom and independence, uncertainty, fears, worries

Budúcnosť mladých: túžba po slobode a nezávislosti, neistota, strach, obavy