**Speaking questions for individual and group practice**

1. Where is a good place to meet new friends?
2. What are two important qualities in a good friend? (e.g., kindness, honesty)
3. Do you prefer to have a few close friends or many friends? Why? Which app do you use most to talk to friends? Why do you like it?
4. What is one problem with talking to people only online?
5. Describe a time you had a very nice conversation with someone face-to-face.
6. What is your most useful piece of technology? Why?
7. What did people do before smartphones? Was life easier or more difficult?
8. Do you think we use technology too much? Why or why not?
9. Would you like to have a robot in your home? What would you want it to do?
10. What technology from 20 years ago looks old-fashioned now?
11. Is learning how to use computers an important skill? Why?
12. What was the last thing you bought online? Were you happy with it?
13. What is one thing you would never buy online? Why?
14. Why is customer service important in a store?
15. Describe your dream job. What would you do?
16. Is it better to work alone or in a team? Why?
17. Would you like to start your own business one day? What kind?
18. Have you ever bought something because you saw it on social media? Describe what happened.
19. What are the good and bad points of being famous on social media (an "influencer")?
20. Do you follow any companies or brands online? Why?
21. Is working from home a good idea? Why or why not?
22. What is one job that technology cannot replace? Why?
23. What is a useful app or software for your work or studies?
24. Describe a time you had a disagreement that ultimately led to a better understanding.

**Theme 1: Social Communication & Psychology**

**Speaking Task 1: The Nature of Conflict**

* **Group Question:** "Is conflict in a relationship always a negative thing, or can it sometimes be beneficial?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. Describe a time you had a disagreement that ultimately led to a better understanding.
  2. What is the difference between a constructive debate and a destructive argument?
  3. How can cultural differences lead to misunderstandings, even when a common language is spoken?

**Speaking Task 2: Social Media & Personality**

* **Group Question:** "To what extent do you think social media platforms encourage people to create an idealized, rather than authentic, version of themselves?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. Discuss the pressure to curate a "perfect" life online. What are the consequences of this?
  2. How has social media changed the way we form first impressions of someone?
  3. Is it possible to have a meaningful, deep connection with someone you only know online?

**Speaking Task 3: Persuasion and Influence**

* **Group Question:** "What are the most effective techniques someone can use to persuade others? (e.g., using data, appealing to emotion, building trust)"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. Describe a time you were successfully persuaded to change your mind about something important. What convinced you?
  2. How can you tell when someone is trying to manipulate you rather than persuade you logically?
  3. Why is it important to be aware of persuasive techniques used in advertising?

**Theme 2: Technology & Ethics**

**Speaking Task 4: The Algorithmic Society**

* **Group Question:** "How do the algorithms used by social media and streaming services (like Netflix or YouTube) shape our tastes, opinions, and even our worldview?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. What are the potential dangers of living in a "filter bubble" or "echo chamber" created by algorithms?
  2. Should companies be more transparent about how their algorithms work? Why or why not?
  3. Can an algorithm ever truly understand human creativity and recommend art or music effectively?

**Speaking Task 5: The Right to Disconnect**

* **Group Question:** "Modern technology has blurred the line between work and personal life. Should employees have a legal 'right to disconnect' from work emails and messages after hours?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. How has the "always-on" culture of connectivity impacted your own life or stress levels?
  2. What responsibilities do companies have to protect their employees' mental health in the digital age?
  3. Is this a problem that individuals should solve themselves, or does it require government regulation?

**Speaking Task 6: The Future of Privacy**

* **Group Question:** "In the digital age, is the concept of privacy becoming obsolete? Discuss the trade-off between convenience and personal data."
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. What personal information are you willing to share for a free service (like a social media platform), and what would you absolutely refuse to share?
  2. Who do you trust more with your data: large tech companies or your government? Why?
  3. What is one technological development that you think poses a significant threat to personal privacy?

**Theme 3: Business & The Future of Work**

**Speaking Task 7: Corporate Social Responsibility**

* **Group Question:** "Beyond making a profit, what responsibilities do large corporations have to society? (e.g., environmental, ethical, social)"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. How much influence should a company's values have on your decision to buy their products?
  2. Can a company be both highly profitable and truly ethical? Provide an example to support your view.
  3. Is "greenwashing" (pretending to be environmentally friendly) a inevitable part of marketing?

**Speaking Task 8: The Gig Economy**

* **Group Question:** "The rise of the gig economy (e.g., Uber, freelance platforms) offers flexibility but often lacks job security. Is this a positive development for the future of work?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. What are the biggest advantages and drawbacks for a worker in the gig economy?
  2. Do platforms like Uber have an ethical obligation to provide benefits to their drivers, or are they merely technology companies connecting independent contractors?
  3. Would you prefer the stability of a traditional 9-to-5 job or the flexibility of gig work? Why?

**Speaking Task 9: Globalization & Local Culture**

* **Group Question:** "As global brands like McDonald's and Starbucks expand worldwide, does this lead to a loss of local culture and business, or does it create beneficial economic opportunities?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. Describe a global brand that you feel has successfully adapted its products to fit local cultures.
  2. How can small local businesses compete with the power and convenience of global chains?
  3. Is the homogenization of global culture an inevitable price of economic progress?

**Speaking Task 10: The Purpose of Business**

* **Group Question:** "There is a famous quote: 'The business of business is business.' (Meaning its only purpose is profit). Do you agree with this, or do you believe businesses have a wider purpose?"
* **Individual Questions:**
  1. What is more important for a company's long-term success: customer satisfaction or shareholder value?
  2. How can a company's mission and values impact employee motivation and loyalty?
  3. Describe a company you admire not just for its products, but for its business practices.