Activity 1. Read the questions below and prepare your own answer. Remember to give a direct answer to the question first, then extend your answer by adding extra information in a couple of sentences.

Activity 2. Read the answers below carefully and highlight expressions, vocabulary or idioms that you wish to remember. Make sure you practice them in your speaking, so that you can make use of them in your speaking test.

Part 3. Holiday/tourism

Q: What are some of the major tourist attractions in the country you live in?
There are many popular tourist attractions in the country I live in now, which is Australia, such as the Opera House in Sydney and the Great Ocean Road in Victoria and the Pinnacles in Western Australia. The Opera House is probably one of the most visited places in Australia. It is an iconic structure and a familiar landmark in Sydney. Whereas the Opera House is man-made, the Great Ocean Road and the pinnacles are the work of Mother Nature. They are popular tourist attractions, too.

Q: What are some of the advantages of tourism for local people? Are there any disadvantages?
The most obvious advantage of tourism for local people is that tourism brings an economic boost to the town. As tourists come to visit tourist attractions, lots of shops such as souvenir shops and restaurants as well as hotels, serviced apartments and inns benefit from tourists' spending. As the area needs to accommodate visitors' needs, they are often equipped with better environments and facilities such as manicured gardens, well-maintained parks, more number of public toilets, bigger shopping malls, easy to access health care facilities and gourmet restaurants.
On the other hand, there are disadvantages too. I usually think that a town visited frequently by a large number of tourists is likely to be crowded and things are often over-priced. Moreover, the local people would find it annoying or inconvenient to have tourists in their town all year round. There may be more rubbish and littering as well as more noise. So, tourism is really a double-edged sword to the local people.

Q: Which method of travel do you consider the safest?
In my personal opinion, I believe the train is the safest method of travel. It is obviously safer than driving a car or taking buses, as we all know that there are numerous car accidents daily on the roads and they are subject to weather, time of the day and road conditions.
Compared with the aircraft accidents, the number of train accidents is far less and aircraft accidents tend to turn into serious calamities, resulting in more casualties. Therefore, I'm most convinced that the train is the safest method of travel.

Q: What are the drawbacks of travelling overseas we may experience?
We are unbelievably fortunate that we can travel around the globe easily and conveniently nowadays. However, there can be some drawbacks of travelling foreign countries such as being attacked, robbed, becoming sick due to food poisoning or infectious diseases and being accused of not respecting the culture. Apparently, the world is becoming more dangerous due to terrorist attacks and wars. Therefore, we have to check the international travel restrictions before we travel abroad. By travelling abroad, we are exposed to unexpected danger and it is very likely that we will have some safety issues if we are not careful. It's better to be safe than sorry. We have to be cautious about everything when we travel foreign countries. For example, we have to check if the tap water is safe to drink or not and we should avoid looking like tourists because we can easily be the target of muggers and bandits. Also, we have to understand the culture of the foreign country.