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. Environment

Q: Would you tell me about some of the most serious environmental problems we are facing these days?

There are lots of serious environmental problems we are facing these days such as climate change, environmental degradation, depletion of resources and many types of pollutions like land pollution, water pollution, and air pollution. These problems contribute to accelerating global warming, which means the earth is getting warmer due to gases such as carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide trapping heat from the sun. This causes a rise in temperature and sea level, which is a process commonly known as the greenhouse effect. We have to expect more extreme weather conditions as well as more occurrences of flooding and droughts in the future, which is sad. I truly believe this is a serious problem for all of us.

Q: What are the causes of these problems?

I think it's fair to say that these problems were caused by human activities. For example, factories and vehicles give off emissions and exhaust fumes. Moreover, other human activities like driving vehicles and air travel are causes of environmental problems, too. Because of these human activities, there will be more environmental issues later on.

Q: What can you suggest for the government to do to solve environmental issues?

The government needs to take action to tackle environmental issues. I think the most effective way is to introduce laws to limit and manage emissions from large factories and to impose heavy green taxes. Also, I think it would be a good idea if they can educate the public to raise awareness of environmental conservation and take the initiative in saving the earth.

Q: How would the environmental problems we have now impact our offspring?

I believe that the environmental problems that we have now would impact the next generation in many aspects. Fossil fuels like oil and gas will run out sooner or later and of course with the increasing population, natural resources will be likely to be used up. Also, enormous areas of rainforest and natural habitats of wildlife will be affected by global warming, so I believe many endangered species will no longer exist in the future for the next generation to see and care for. It is very likely that the future generation will live in adverse environmental conditions because there will be even more issues and problems caused by our indiscrete and reckless development that doesn't consider the environment much. I hope I answered your question.