

# MULTI LEVEL PRACTICE TEST 25

## PART 1

### **How old were you when you started school?**

I began my formal education at the age of six. I studied in a small local primary school and that was my only choice back then because that was the only school in town. To be honest, the authorities in my hometown didn't care much about children's education.

### **How did you get to school each day?**

Well, normally, my father or mother would drive me to school. But sometimes, when they were occupied with their jobs, they would just ask a relative, or even an acquaintance to take me instead. People really trusted each other back then.

### **Tell me something about your school?**

Well, it was located only 10 minutes away from my house, so I was never late for class. And because it was a school for gifted students, the competition was fierce, which, somehow, was a great source of motivation for me to try my best in studying.

### **Did you enjoy it? (Why?/Why not?)**

Yes, I did. As I said earlier, my school was extremely close to my house so I wasted no energy on travelling. Moreover, all teachers were wonderfully supportive and always available to help me with my problems.

### **What were some of the most popular activities at primary school?**

Well, at that time, mostly children played together in the playground. Besides studying in class, sometimes we had ceremonies to commemorate national heroes who died fighting for our country's freedom. These events often included a singing contest, which I enjoyed tremendously.

### **Have you ever returned to see your old school again?**

Well, in all honesty, ever since I graduated from primary school, I never had a chance to go back. My old school has been reconstructed, so it might be significantly different now from the



one I knew. However, I'm planning to visit it in the near future with some old friends, and I bet that will be amazing.

## **PART 2**

### **Describe a challenge you faced.**

You should say:

- What was the challenge?
- When and where did you complete/met it?
- Why was it difficult?
- How you felt about it?

I think life would be very boring without challenges. Challenges not only make life more exciting but also more meaningful. Today I am going to talk about an assignment in school which challenged me. The assignment was quite daunting for me, as it involved a group presentation. And I am very afraid of public speaking. I am very comfortable when talking with my friends but when I have to talk in front of strangers I choke. And for that assignment, I had to talk 10 minutes on the environment. I was really worried and so I went to my uncle who regularly gives speeches in public for advice. He told me that the key to a good speech is mastery over the subject matter. So, I spent one whole week memorizing the content. The next thing he told me to do was to divide the topic in different sections. I divided my presentation into five halves of 2 minutes each. The first half was for introducing the topic and the last half for concluding the topic. The remaining three halves were for the main content. After breaking the speech into sections, I felt a lot more confident. My friends also knew about my fear of public speaking and so every evening they used to come to my home and help me prepare. Slowly, I started feeling that it was doable. I was nervous but I wasn't worried anymore. When finally, the day of the presentation arrived, I not only gave the whole presentation but also received an A grade for it. My teacher told me that I did a really good job and she actually asked me if I had prior experience of public speaking. That is the day I realized that rather than fearing challenges we should welcome them.

## **PART 3**



### **Do you think parents should give challenges to children?**

Yes, I really believe parents should regularly give challenges to their children. I think it makes children confident and better prepared for adult life, which is full of challenges.

### **What is the most challenging thing for kids?**

I think there are many things which are challenging for kids and it's hard to single out one. I would say making friends is challenging for some, public speaking is challenging for some and for some calculations in mathematics are very challenging. It varies from person to person.

### **Can parents reduce the challenges kids have? How?**

I think they can, but they shouldn't. If they try to reduce challenges, their child will not become independent. What parents should do I feel is to make children understand that challenges help us improve and we should not fear but face them head on.

### **Do you think being challenged is good for a person?**

Personally, I think it's good. It's how we develop as people and discover our own potential. If everything we did was simple, we wouldn't ever learn new things or develop ourselves mentally and emotionally.

In many instances, overcoming obstacles and dealing with challenging circumstances may be quite satisfying as well as it might help you develop your character and independence. Not every challenge or difficult thing is beneficial for you, but without difficulties we simply remain the same, and that's kind of boring, isn't it?

### **Which do you think is better, to face these difficulties and challenges alone or to seek the help of others?**

Most people seek advice from others in difficult circumstances. It might be their family or friends, but it's usually someone with a distinctive perspective.

Two heads are better than one in this situation because you can seek advice on what to do when presented with difficult choices without having to go through them



alone. It's not always attractive to fail at something. However, there is nothing wrong with attempting, even if your initial effort is unsuccessful. It makes more sense to get ready yourself than to wait until it is too late. We may not always enjoy involving other people too much, yet there are occasions when it might be beneficial. It depends on the kind of issue or challenging circumstance you are dealing with.

