1. **What is the role of ordinary citizens in making their country a better place?**

* How do civil societies evolve?
* Should children be encouraged to participate in social projects and community work?
* Do you know someone who has volunteered for the Army?
* Have you done any volunteering work recently?

1. **It is often said that the country is judged by the way it treats its disabled citizens.**

* Are there enough facilities for disabled people where you live?
* Considering that the number of people who have lost limbs in the war is growing, do you think the local authorities are doing enough to improve accessible facilities?
* Do you think more money should be spent on improving prosthetics for people with physical disability?

1. **There is a plethora of books that supposedly offer the key to success. Do you believe these guides really work? Why/not?**

* How do you define success?
* Do you think there is a universal key to success? In other words, is there a quality or trait that guarantees success?
* Do you know someone (friend, family member etc.) who you would define as successful?

1. **J.K.Rowling once said in her commencement address, “It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all – in which case you fail by default.”**

* Do you agree with this statement? Why/not?
* Do you take a lot of risks?
* How would you define “risk”? How about “danger”? Is there any difference between the two words?

1. **Discuss the ethics of gene editing.**

* What are the moral implications of using gene editing technologies?
* What are the benefits, in your view, that gene editing would bring?
* What are the risks?

1. **The last decade has seen a dramatic rise of misinformation and news manipulation.**

* How do different countries deal with misinformation in the media?
* How can misinformed citizens be manipulated?
* What do you think are the implications of deepfake technologies creating convincing fake videos and audio?
* Is banning malign news media platforms the answer to the problem?
* Would it be a good idea for Ukraine to ban *Telegram*, considering the extent of Russia’s subversive activities on this platform?

1. **How do you think space exploration will shape the future of humanity?**

* What is the current state of space exploration?
* What potential benefits and risks are associated with future human colonization of other planets?
* What role do private space companies play in shaping the future of space exploration?
* Discuss the ethical considerations of colonizing other planets.

1. **What is your sense of the future of democracy globally, from today’s vantage point?**

* Examine current trends affecting democracies around the world.
* Discuss the role of social media in shaping democratic processes.
* What do you think of the impact of populism and nationalism on the future of democratic institutions?

1. **Over the past several years, the business world has witnessed a rise of trillion-dollar companies (Amazon, Apple, Tesla, Alphabet etc.), a phenomenon not known before, whose power goes well beyond financial capabilities.**

* Explore the influence of these corporations on global economic and political events.
* What are the responsibilities, in your view, that such companies should bear beyond wealth creation?
* Discuss the impact of corporate decisions on communities and the environment.

1. **Given the state of our environment and decline in overall health, eating healthily is becoming increasingly important.**

* Sometimes eating healthy means eating food that doesn't taste very good. Where do you stand when it comes to this trade-off between taste and health?
* What do you think about genetically modified food?
* What is your opinion of diets that exclude meat?
* Do you think the food we eat affects our physical and mental health?

1. **Everybody seems to agree that the gap between rich and poor is growing, and not only in developing countries but in many democracies as well.**

* What do you think is causing this disparity?
* What tools do societies have for lifting people out of poverty?
* Does taxing the rich solve inequality?
* How severe is the problem of inequality in this country?

1. **Mahatma Gandhi once said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.”**

What do you think it means?

Would you say that societies are driven by the most active elements in their midst?

Depending on the kind of character you have, do you see yourself playing a more active or passive role in society going forward?

1. **With many parts of the world engulfed in conflict today, Russia’s war on Ukraine being one of the most – if not the most – consequential and unprecedented in the last half century, the prospects for peace on the planet are drifting further away than ever before.**

* Do you think wars in the world can be prevented?
* Is a diplomatic solution an answer to every conflict?
* How does the Russo-Ukraine war demonstrate the value of diplomacy?
* Should all young people be made to do military service?

1. **The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a profound impact on how we live, work and study. What do you think its effects have been on education?**

* Examine the challenges and opportunities presented by remote learning.
* Have remote learning technologies had a positive or negative effect on you personally? What do you like/dislike about studying on Zoom, MS Teams, Google Meet etc. platforms?
* Discuss the role of technology in shaping the future of education.

1. **There is no denying that the past decade has seen a dramatic rise in smartphone addiction.**

* What factors contribute to excessive smartphone use, and how is it manifested in individuals’ daily lives?
* What do you think is the impact of smartphones on face-to-face interaction? Can smartphones affect the quality of personal relationships?
* How do you control your smartphone use? Have you considered periods of disconnection to promote mental well-being?
* Should parents manage their children’s smartphone use?

1. **There has been a great deal of concern recently over the role and power of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How do you view the benefits and dangers associated with AI?**

* Discuss the ethical implications of AI in today's society.
* Discuss the significance of AI in healthcare.
* What is its potential in education?
* How do you envision the future coexistence of humans and AI?

1. **Social media (*Facebook, X (*formerly known as *Twitter)*, *Instagram, TikTok* etc.) are believed to have affected many aspects of our lives.**

* How much time on average do you spend on social media sites daily?
* How useful do you find them in your everyday activities?
* What do you believe are the negative effects of social media?
* Can you provide examples illustrating situations where users have benefited from social media or, conversely, have been adversely affected by them?

1. **In today’s digital age, despite unprecedented access to information from various sources and channels, individuals are not necessarily better-informed, but, instead, feel confused.**

* What, in your view, contributes to a sense of confusion?
* Do you sometimes struggle with information overload? Can you suggest ways of dealing with it?
* Is it easier or more challenging to discern the truth when there is so much information available?
* Do you think there should be some filtering mechanisms in place or do you believe people should have access to unfiltered information?

1. **Share your thoughts on the challenges posed by the global spread of terrorism today.**

* What do you think are the possible causes of terrorism?
* What about the growing spread of state terrorism? What countries are associated with it?
* How can humanity combat terrorism effectively?
* Speak, if you can, about the threats posed by Hamas, Gouthis, Al Qaeda etc. Can you talk about the latest attacks by any of these groups that are causing widespread havoc?

1. **Politics and politicians are often associated with underhand dealings, unfair play, mudslinging etc. At the same time, there is no denying that there are people in politics who genuinely wish to make their country a better place and actually put considerable effort into making this happen.**

* Are there or have there been politicians – in this country or elsewhere in the world – who genuinely try to change things for the better?
* Can you name a politician (politicians) that has / have inspired you?
* What is it that they have done that has brought about a positive change /positive changes?

1. **If you were the mayor of a town/city grappling with pollution and heavy traffic, how would you approach addressing these challenges?**

* What steps would you take to reduce traffic congestion and air pollution?
* Would you consider introducing cycle routes?
* What would you do to convince the residents of your town/city to leave the comfort of their car and choose a bike as their  primary mode of transport?

1. **Share your thoughts on the cult of celebrity in modern society.**

* What are the downsides of fame?
* Does being a celebrity mean your life must be constantly under scrutiny?
* How do celebrities feel about the paparazzi?
* Do you believe celebrities have a social responsibility? You might consider Taylor Swift as an example. How much power does she have?

1. **Among the problems humanity faces in the 21st century, fighting deadly diseases (HIV-AIDs, Ebola, malaria, etc) is thought to be one of the most challenging.**

* What are the possible causes of new diseases emerging in the world today?
* How successful were various countries in handling Covid 19?
* What impact does the anti-vaccination movement have on public health efforts? Have you encountered instances of vaccine hesitancy among your family and friends?
* What is your take on the possibility of bad state actors weaponizing diseases / using biological weapons?

1. **It is predicted that people – in the not too distant future – are going to live longer: today's children may well live to be a hundred.**

* What, in your view, is making longer life spans possible?
* What are the negative consequences of people living longer lives?
* What challenges will this pose for humanity?

1. **There has been a considerable amount of cognitive research carried out into the issue of happiness. As a result, there is mounting evidence to suggest that many of our intuitions about what makes people happy are wrong.**

* Can you guess what intuitions those are?
* What things make you happy? Do you think these will change as you grow older?
* How do you think winning a lottery would affect your emotional well-being?

1. **How would you describe the situation (military, economic and otherwise) that Ukraine is currently finding itself in?**

* What, in your view, is needed to get the country better-prepared to deal with Russia’s ongoing invasion?
* Have the events of the past three years altered in any way Ukrainians' perceptions of their own history, identity, culture, language etc.?
* How do you envisage Ukraine in 20 years’ time?

1. **Some people have expressed skepticism regarding the reality of global warming and climate change, suggesting it may be a myth meant to scare people.**

* Where do you stand on the issue of climate change?
* What, according to scientists, contributes to global warming?
* What challenges, if any, does the changing climate pose for humanity?

1. **The famous neurosurgeon, Henry Marsh, once said, “What are you if you’re not helping people? You’re nothing, nothing at all.”**

* Does this idea resonate with you personally? Tell a story about a time in your life when you have helped someone who really needed it, but at some cost to yourself.
* Do you feel a greater sense of importance when you’re doing something that involves helping your community?
* Do you know anyone who is now volunteering for the Ukrainian troops?
* What benefits do you think volunteers get from volunteering?

1. **Reflect on the following quote by Nelson Mandela: “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”.**

* What role does education play in the development of an individual?
* How important is education for social change?
* Can a nation of uneducated and poorly educated individuals hope to become part of a civilized world?

1. **We all know that perceptions of beauty have changed over time: what was seen as beautiful in earlier times may not necessarily be considered beautiful now.**

* Would you agree that “beauty is in the eyes of the beholder”?
* Do the media, including advertising, fashion magazines, and social media play a role in shaping beauty ideals?
* How do these ideals affect individuals’ self-perception, especially girls’?