

## TOEFL LESSON 20

### INDEPENDENT QUESTIONS

**Q1:** Talk about a person in your life who has inspired you. Describe the person and explain why you found him/her inspirational.

**Q2:** Who is the most intelligent person you know? Describe the person and say why you think he/she is intelligent.

**Q3:** Who do you feel close to in your family (or extended family)? Describe this person and say why you feel close to him/her.

### INTEGRATED TASK

Read a short passage and listen to a talk on the same topic.

Reading time: **45 seconds**

Part of a syllabus in a political science class

Please note that this political science class is a discussion class. This means that you must complete the assigned reading before each class and be prepared to take part in a discussion of the assigned reading. The reading list is attached, and you must complete the assigned reading from the reading list before you come to class. If you have not finished the assigned reading, do not bother to come to class. If you do not plan on taking part in class discussions do not come to class. If this does not sound good to you, I will be delighted to sign a drop card so that you can transfer to a different class.



Now listen to a passage



**Question:** How do the students seem to feel about the professor's policy on class discussions?

Preparation time: **30 seconds**

Speaking time: **60 seconds**

Audio Tape scripts:

*(woman)* Brian, did you see the part of the syllabus about discussion in class?

*(man)* I sure did!

*(woman)* Do you think the professor means it? I mean, it sounds so strict.

*(man)* I'm actually really sure she means it.

*(woman)* Really? Why are you so sure?

*(man)* Because I know someone who took a class from this professor last year. One of my friends did.

*(woman)* And what did your friend tell you about the class?

*(man)* He said the professor really makes the point that she wants everyone to read the material and come prepared to take part in the discussion. Each day, the professor starts the class by asking students questions about the reading. If any students can't answer the questions, she tells them to leave the classroom before the discussion starts.

*(woman)* I guess she is serious about this. I think I'll go to the library and work on the first reading assignment.

*(man)* From what I've heard, that would be a very sensible idea.

VOCABULARY HOMEWORK:

1. They met with a problem that posed a bilateral difficulty.  
(A) single-sided  
(B) **two-sided**  
(C) insoluble  
(D) tough
2. The frost made bizarre figures on the windowpanes.  
(A) normal  
(B) mangy  
(C) **strange**  
(D) regular
3. A bland smile is always welcome.  
(A) pungent  
(B) **gentle**  
(C) brusque  
(D) blank
4. The boys blandished their parents into taking them out.  
(A) brandished  
(B) **coaxed**  
(C) besought  
(D) threatened
5. The trumpet blared, announcing the King's arrival.  
(A) **sounded**  
(B) blazed  
(C) glowed  
(D) glared
6. Cursing God is blasphemous.  
(A) sophisticated  
(B) irrelevant  
(C) joking  
(D) **sacrilegious**
7. He made a blatant error.  
(A) trivial  
(B) modest  
(C) **obvious**  
(D) inconspicuous
8. This year they'll have a bleak winter.  
(A) balmy  
(B) austere  
(C) agreeable  
(D) mild
9. One single evil deed may blemish a good name.  
(A) blend  
(B) **blink**  
(C) injure  
(D) bleach
10. All his hopes were blighted.  
(A) **shattered**  
(B) enflamed  
(C) restored  
(D) rekindled

Answers

1B 2C 3B 4B 5A 6D 7C 8B 9B 10A

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