Maturita Card 14: Relationships

Bridge

• How do you make new friends?

Making new friends / Getting to know new people... is easy for me / is difficult for me. I think / I believe making new friends... is something you need to work hard at / is something that should happen naturally. I meet new friends... at school / at parties / through friends / through social groups / on the internet.

• How often do you arrange to meet friends?

My friends and I get together / hang out / meet... quite often / every weekend / whenever we have free time / only rarely. We see each other... all the time / every day at school / only during summer holidays.

• What qualities do you think are important in a friend?

A friend should be... / I get on best with people who are... caring / forgiving / fun / helpful / intelligent / loyal / reliable / thoughtful / understanding. Real friends are people who... you have a lot in common with / you can ask for advice or help / you can depend on / you can stay friends with even after having an argument / a falling out. I don't get on well with people who are... / I would / could never be friends with someone who was... uncaring / selfish / boring / unhelpful / unintelligent / disloyal / unreliable.

Do you think it is a problem that many children nowadays spend more time in front of a computer than actually playing with their friends?

I think / I believe / In my opinion... it is a serious problem / it can lead to some definite antisocial behaviour / it can make people incapable of leading a normal life in the future... We live in the age of computers, and this is simply one of the side-effects... It is not a problem / it is a good way to keep in touch with distant friends / many PC games are interactive, and can help shy people become more social.

• Are friends more important than family?

No, your family is your blood, and will / should always be there for you whereas friends change... It is difficult to say for sure / certain... It depends on the relationship you have / on how close you are with your family / friends... Yes, as you get older friends become more important to you because they are closer to your age and you share more interests with them.

Do you get along well with your family?

My family and I get on / along quite well / wonderfully. I have a good relationship with my sister because she... lends me her clothes / helps me with my homework. I don't get on / along very well with my brother because we... share a room / don't have anything in common. We have a normal relationship.

Do you know what a nuclear family is?

A nuclear family consists of parents and their children living together. When their grandparents or other family members such as aunts, uncles, nieces or nephews live with them, we call it an extended family. Because of high rate of divorce in our country, fewer children live in a nuclear family and might live in a blended family. A blended family is one with non-biological family members, e.g. a step-brother.

Describe the character of the person you date or would like to date.

I like / I prefer / I am most attracted to people who are... I would like to find / meet / go out with someone who is... kind / caring / romantic / intelligent / thoughtful / supportive. I really like / love... a good sense of humour / someone who can make me laugh. I don't like / I don't care for / I'm not attracted to people who are... I would never go out with someone who was... rude / unkind / selfish / unintelligent.

What are the most common ways of meeting partners?

I guess / I suppose... most people meet... at work / at parties / at pubs / at clubs / through friends / on the internet.

Do you think it is okay for a couple to live together before getting married? Why or why not?

I think / In my opinion / I guess / I suppose... it's quite normal, especially nowadays... it's the best way to really get to know someone... it's the best way to find out if you're really compatible / if you can get along. I would never marry someone without having lived with them first. It's still considered wrong in some cultures. I could never live with someone without being married to them / unless we were married.

What do you think about long-distance relationships? Would you move to a place far from your family and friends to be with the person you loved?

It would be / might be difficult to maintain a serious relationship at a long distance... because you see each other so seldom / you cannot hang out together often enough / you would worry about the loyalty of the person you love. It is possible to maintain the relationship... because you can chat on the phone and internet daily / you value the person more if you see him / her rarely. I could never move far away from my family, not even because of somebody I loved... If there were no other options, I would do it... I would do it because I could always move back if the relationship didn't work out... I would try to persuade the person I love to move closer to me instead.



