

5. COMPETITIVENESS DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of competitiveness - is it good or bad?

I think that our society has normalized competitiveness to the point that not being competitive nowadays is almost unthinkable. **Nevertheless**, the fact that an excess of competitiveness is now typical doesn't mean that rivalry is right. From my point of view, competitiveness may be good in the proper way, since being competitive may make you **raise your standards**.

2. Are you a competitive person? Why/why not?

I'm not a competitive person because I believe that it is exhausting being always focused **not only** in your own work **but also** in everybody's work.

3. What's the most competitive thing you've ever done?

The most competitive thing that I've ever done reminds me of high school, when some teachers made a quiz at the end of the lesson as a method of checking **whether** we had understood everything **or not**. When this **took place**, everybody fought for showing our teacher that we were the most intelligent of the class.

4. What the most competitive act you've ever come across yourself?

QUESTION 3.

5. Why are some people very competitive and some not?

I believe that someone is competitive or not **due to** the education they have received from their parents or from their schools and high schools. For example, if parents ask a child about his mark and then about the best mark of the class, this child will think that, although his mark is good, it's not good enough. He would think that he needs to **catch up with** the best of the class and this is not right. A child needs to understand that he must improve for himself and his own knowledge, instead of improving for beating his classmates. As well as in school or high school, if the teacher only congratulates the best mark of the class, the other children would want to catch up with the best of the class with the goal of being congratulated, not with the goal of improving.

6. Would you ever enter a talent show, or reality game show like I'd Do Anything or The Apprentice?

I wouldn't enter a talent show because I don't have any talent and I don't like being on TV, **even though** I like watching these kinds of shows. **Besides this**, I don't think I would be competent in these shows because they are made for competitive people.

7. Is competition good for us?

I believe competition is good for us, but it's not well set out in most cases. **I mean**, I think that parents and the educative institutions should teach that we have to compete with ourselves, not with our classmates or co-workers. We are our only rival. We have to fight every day for **tapping into our full potential**.

8. Do you like competitive people?

I don't like competitive people because in some cases, due to their competitiveness, they become **mean and untrustworthy**.

9. Do you think competitiveness is affected by your place in the family? Are younger children more competitive than elder children?

Maybe in some families, younger children feel that they have to **catch up with** their elder siblings for making their parents **proud**, but I don't think this pattern repeats in every family.

10. Why are some parents so competitive for their children?

I think that parents are competitive for their children due to two reasons: **either** because their parents were also competitive with them or because, on the contrary, they weren't at all and they think that maybe, if their parents **would have been** competitive for them, they **would have Benn** more successful.

11. Have you ever come across a 'pushy parent'?

yes, **indeed**, my own parents, maybe **due to the fact** that they are teachers, they **have always pushed** me with my studies and grades but it never stressed me, I have always studied because I wanted to, not because they pushed me to.

12. Is competitiveness encouraged in society or not?

Nowadays, our society rewards those who are competitive and don't mind **trampling on** their classmates or co-workers, because they know that, **by doing this they might stand out and get recognition** from their bosses and teachers.

13. In what way is education a competition in your country?

Education is a competition, for example, when it comes to **scholarships**. If only the higher grades can be rewarded with scholarships, the students compete between themselves for achieving them. Also, they compete for accessing university because if a degree is **on demand**, only the students with better grades will gain access to it.

14. Do you think life is a competition?

I believe that, **in terms of** education, it surely is because of scholarships and the access to university. **Furthermore**, life is a competition in some jobs where you can be **promoted** thanks to your **achievements, that is to say, meritocracy**. In these kinds of jobs, it's **every man for himself**.

15. Do we learn to be competitive or are we born competitive?

I think that we learn to be competitive because of the current society. It's impossible for a baby to become competitive **unless he does observe** this behavior in his environment.

16. "A competitive person is always a winner. An uncompetitive person is always a loser." What do you think?

I don't agree with this **statement** because you can be a winner without focusing on others achievements. It's a **myth** that every competitive person is a winner, because, even though someone is competitive, **it doesn't mean that he is efficient. Competitiveness may be an incentive but not a guarantee of success.**

17. Which country is in "competition" with your country?

I have never thought about this question but the first country that comes to mind is France, maybe because of **historic rivalry**, but, from my point of view, these kinds of competitiveness are pointless.

18. What would the world be like without competition?

I think that people would be happier and less stressed. **Besides**, without competitiveness people would be friendlier and more receptive, because **they wouldn't see everybody as an opponent**.

19. Are men more competitive than women?

I certainly believe that men are more competitive than women because we have received different educations. They have always taught us that men **were supposed to** get big jobs and women were or weren't supposed to get a job. Women have always had the same occupation, this is, taking care of their houses and children. **Apart from that**, they could or couldn't have another job or studies. Luckily, as society changes, education is changing so it's more common to see teachers encouraging girls and, **as a result**, there are more and more competitive women these days.

20. Do you care if you lose when you are in a competition?

I have to admit that I prefer winning **rather than** losing but, when I lose, it's not a tragedy. It's important enjoying life without thinking about winning or losing.

21. Do you think competitiveness leads to cheating?

Of course, **I do** believe that competitiveness leads to cheating, above all, when someone wants to be the best or to win without effort or when someone does make efforts but there is another person who is better, **despite** your hard work.

22. What are the advantages of being competitive?

I think that being competitive has advantages only when you need it as an incentive for improving yourself or your working conditions.

23. What are the disadvantages?

The main disadvantage might be the fact that you stop focusing on your own work and you start focusing on the work of others. **Moreover**, paying attention in every moment as much to your work as to others must exhaust you mentally.

24. Is it possible to be a competitive person and a gracious loser?

It's difficult being a gracious loser, but everybody should learn to lose and still have a good relationship with those who beat them. When you are a competitive person,

you push yourself with the goal of winning, so you need to win so badly and, if this doesn't happen, you could get really angry.

25. Which nation(s) do you think is (are) the most intrinsically competitive?

When I think of competitive nations China comes to my mind. They seem to be very strict in their education, in their training and in their jobs.

26. What are the benefits of competition between colleagues?

I don't think there exist any benefits, but, if I put myself in a competitive person shoes, I will find a lot of benefits such as being promoted or drawing attention to myself.

27. What are the drawbacks of competition between colleagues?

The main drawback, in the case you are working in a cooperative area, is that you don't get to trust anybody in your job or to make any friendship with your colleagues. This is a problem for me, for example, because I believe it's **indispensable**, or at least important, to have friends for being happy and efficient at work.

28. Does it bother you a lot if you lose at something?

QUESTION 20

29. How do you feel when you win?

I feel happy when I win, **above all**, when I deserve it due to my hard work. **However**, I also feel happy when I win without effort, **nevertheless**, it's not the same happiness, it's not that **satisfying**. The satisfaction of winning lasts more if you get to win deserving it.

30. What do you think is meant by 'healthy competition'?

What I think "healthy competition" means is to compete without anger nor cheating. What's important in a competition is the game and the knowledge you get from your opponents, not winning or losing.

31. Do you think there is such a thing as unhealthy competition?

I surely believe that unhealthy competition does exist. Unfortunately, unhealthy competition is more current than it should be. People should learn to **play down** competition, only like that they would compete in a more relaxed way.

32. Do you agree with the expression 'every man for himself'?

I don't agree at all. I believe that we as a modern society should be more collaborative and helpful with each other, but instead of that, we **pursue** our goal without caring if we step on our colleagues' toes.

33. Do you think it is good to try to be 'ahead of the game' in the workplace?

I think that trying to **be ahead of the game** in the workplace is pointless. I don't consider it gives you any special benefits or drawbacks in relation to your coworkers.

34. Do you think competition between companies is a good thing?

I don't consider it's a good thing, but I believe that it's an element **attached to** current companies in the competitive society we live in nowadays. I can't imagine companies without competing.

35. What are some ways that people or businesses compete with each other?

A way of competing among businesses might be doing bad advertising about their opponent businesses and the same when it comes to people: you can tell lies about your opponents for guaranteeing yourself that you are going to **prevail** before their bosses.