QUESTIONS FOR SUMMER EXAM FOR THE 2ND STUDY YEAR STUDENTS

Unit 1

I. 1. How much are money matters important to you? 2. What could be called status symbols? Can education be considered a status symbol? Why do people tend to buy such status symbols as expensive cars and fashionable clothes? What status symbols are important to you personally? Which is more important to you, to have more money and a lower social and professional status or to have less money and a higher social and professional status? 3. Do you care what impression you produce on other people? Why? Don't you think that people lose part of their individuality trying to form a certain image? Why do high-profile politicians and businessmen resort to consultants in creating a public image? 4. How could you describe modern values? What do you value most in life? What is really important to you? How can an individual improve the world?

II. 1. Is your tuition covered by the state or paid for by your parents? Do you think it fair to make students pay for university education? In what countries is university education free? (Germany; France and Britain – partially) 2. What would you like your life to look like when you are 25? 3. What event or ceremony marked your transition to early adulthood? What was it like? At what age do young people in this country (in your country) come of age (become legally adults)? What does it imply? Is coming of age followed by any special ceremony?

III. 1. Why do teenagers sometimes hide their intelligence and ability in the presence of their peers? Do you personally try to stand out from the crowd or try to fit in? What makes you do it? 2. What changes take place as adolescents grow up? How can you explain it?

IV. 1. Do you agree with the idea that modern teenagers are mature young men and women? What makes you think so? 2. What are they concerned with? What do modern teenagers hope for? How do their hopes and aspirations differ from those of the previous generations? 3. Why is the generation of modern teenagers called a consuming society? What facilities are available to them? Where do young people gain experience from? How can you explain it? 4. What can modern teenagers be described as?

V. 1. What major problems have to be dealt with in the ageing society? 2. What threat do smaller families pose to society? 3. What should be done to ensure that the elderly live a fulfilled and independent life? 4. Why is so much importance attached to involving young people in personal pension schemes? What is the situation like in this country? 5. In your opinion, whose responsibility is it to provide for the elderly, the state's or an individual's? What makes you think so?

VI. 1. What are the three commonly accepted classes? What does the word class imply today for many people? 2. Which markers of class have almost ceased to exist? Why has it become harder to identify people's status? 3. Why is class still a powerful force in American life? 4. What does mobility imply? What does the modern research on mobility indicate? 5. What has the old system of inherited privilege been replaced by? 6. Why do children who belong to upper classes see their success as earned? 7. In

what way do the educated and affluent invest in their children? 8. How has the traditional family structure changed with decades?

Unit 2

I. 1. Why does Dr. Whybrow argue that modern society is not that distant from Huxley's brave new world? Why does he add that the soma seems to be in ourselves? 2. In what way do Americans differ from other nations? How does Dr. Whybrow characterise Americans? 3. Where does the paradox of prosperity lie? 4. What advice does Dr. Whybrow give to each of us? Why does he insist on our finding a better balance between work and family?

II. 1. Why is the gross domestic product used to define the well-being of a nation? Why is it not enough to define happiness? 2. How do we describe human well-being today? 3. What did the signers of the American Declaration of Independence have in mind when they included 'the pursuit of happiness' in the document? 4. Don't you think that all the efforts of government officials to impose happiness on people are bound to fall flat? What makes you think so? 5. How could you describe your goals in life?

III. 1. What caused the devaluation of moral values in today's Russia? 2. How do present-day Russian millionaires differ from Henry Ford or Savva Morozov? What was the impact of their lifestyle and values on their contemporaries? What facts show that the situation is not altogether gloomy / desperate? 3. How does George Soros see the role of market values in social life and the future of capitalist economy?

Unit 3

I. 1. According to Taylor and Wacker, why will companies become more like governments? 2. Do you think a United Corporations could work? 3. Are dotcoms really dead? 4. Is it true what the article says about technology? 5. What view of competition does the article take? Do you agree? 6. How do you understand the headline? 7. What, in your opinion, does the future hold for us?

II. 1. What is Joanne Rowling famous for? 2. What was her life like in the early 1990s? How was she able to go from welfare statistic to the wealthiest woman in the United Kingdom? What does she owe her success to? 3. What is J. Rowling's background? 4. When did the idea of writing a book about a wizard boy dawn upon her? Where did she write the book? 5. How did her personal life change after the publication of *Harry Porter*? 6. Has the money she earned helped her in pursuing happiness? Does she know how to put money to good use? How does she do it?

III. 1. Whom does Steven Jobs recognize as his parents? Why? 2. What kind of education did Jobs get? What made him drop out of college? 3. Who did Steven Jobs start the Apple computers business with? What made him choose computers of all things? What facts prove that his was the right strategy? 4. How did the market react to the first Mackintosh computers? 5. Why did the Apple computers win the US market? 6. What enabled Jobs to turn the Apple computers into a highly competitive market product?

Unit 4

I. 1. What can climate warming be attributed to? 2. What damage can climate warming cause in the Arctic region? 3. What economic benefits could warming have? 4. Why has a competition for territory, opportunity and resources started in the Arctic region? 5. What natural resources is the Arctic region rich in? 6. What peoples have historically populated the polar region? (the Eskimos, the Chuckchi, the Innuits, the Saami) What have they been engaged in? 7. What makes people populate places with severe or unfriendly climatic conditions? What is migration usually caused by? 8. How do you see the ideal human habitat? (climatic conditions, cultivated land, fresh water supplies, natural resources)

II. 1. 1. The article refers to the New Orleans disaster of 2005. What happened there? 2. Why does the writer use the definite article at the beginning of the third paragraph? What does the article imply? If nobody knows how large it (*the library of Alexandria*) was or what was actually in it, why did it grow into an enduring symbol of culture and knowledge? What happened to the library? 3. Why has Atlantis turned into a myth? Where does the information about this fabulous island come from? What cities were destroyed by natural catastrophes in the past? Which ones have been destroyed in recent times? 4. What European city (or cities) is being destroyed by nature daily? What is being done to prevent its destruction? What parts of Europe might be destroyed as a result of global warming? Do you think it might really happen? What makes you think so?

III. 1. Have you ever stopped to think about how much damage your own home may be doing to the environment? 2. How can energy be saved in the kitchen? 3. Do you agree that air-conditioning is an unnecessary luxury? What makes you think so? 4. Why is it necessary to save energy? How do you personally do it? 5. Why do the British attach so much importance to saving energy? Why are the Europeans so environmentally conscious?

IV. 1. What natural feature of London landscape has been vital to the city's growth? Why has the Thames always played a major role in the life of London? 2. What makes London a multi-ethnic and multicultural metropolis? 3. What attracts immigrants to London? What jobs are open to the newcomers? 4. Why does London attract migrants? What does cultural and ethnic diversity provide for? 5. What does urban economic success depend on today? What makes you think so? 6. Why is London considered to be the financial capital of Europe? 7. What price does London have to pay for its popularity? What manifestations of social inequality are evident in London? What has the national government been doing to improve the situation? 8. Why is London's cosmopolitan feel crucial to its prosperity?

V. 1. Do New York and London share a culture (or a language)? Why is cosmopolitan feel crucial to both cities? 2. What other financial centres could eventually overtake London and New York? 3. What other industries are booming these days? 4. How would you describe the city you come from (where you live)? In which cities do you feel at home? Which two cities would you like to have homes in?

Unit 5

I. 1. Where did the ancient Babylon lie? 2. Who were the people constructing the Tower of Babel? What was their aim? Why did they fail to succeed? 3. How many languages did the global language of Babel diffuse into? 4. What is known as the language tree? 5. What evidence proves that culturally we may all stem from one root? 6. Why does the writer claim that English is gradually becoming a global language? 7. In what way is English creating a single worldview? 8. Do you share the writer's opinion that today English is increasingly being used as a force for the linguistic and cultural colonization of the world? What makes you think so?

II. 1. Why was Fati eager to learn to speak a language that everyone would understand? 2. How does she explain the incredible value of learning English? 3. How has it helped her to pursue her goals in life and fulfill her dreams? 4. Who influenced your decision to master English? What reasons did he/she/they give? 5. What new perspectives does the good command of English bring to you? 6. What does Fati mean saying that she has created a culture of her own and a hometown that has no boundaries?

III. 1. What family and group of languages does English belong to? 2. In what countries does it hold a dominant or official position? 3. Why is it often referred to as lingua franca? 4. What was the status of Latin in the Middle Ages? 5. Why cannot English be a language that stands by itself? 6. What are the arguments in favour of English as a global language? 7. What are the negative consequences of the spread of English?

Unit 6

I. Have you ever moved from one part of the world to another? When was it? Where did you move? Did you try to remain within your mother culture or did you try to absorb a host culture? Why was it essential for you?

II. 1. What does cultural geography study? 2. What crucial feature of our time do the economists and scientists fail to explain? 3. Why did people use to believe that globalization and the revolution in communications technology would bring us together? How can you explain the fact that old national identities and behaviour patterns are proving durable? 4. What does cultural segmentation imply? Which metaphor better describes American cultural pattern – a Melting Pot or a Salad Bowl? What makes you think so? 5. Why do young people tend to create subcultures despite the growing economic integration and rapidly developing communication technologies? Could you think of any examples to illustrate the situation? 6. Does the study of cultural geography seem appealing to you?

III. 1. What prevented peoples and cultures from converging a century ago? What brings uniformity to the modern world? 2. How do *you* see the purpose of travel? 3. Why has travel always inspired the sense of wonder? Why does the writer claim that our sense of wonder may vanish along with exotic destinations?