

The idea of progress.

- 1) What is your definition of the word “ progress”?
- 2) Does progress necessarily mean happiness?
- 3) Do certain new technologies bring people closer together or do they alienate/isolate us?
- 4) With technologies like the internet, WIFI, mobile phones or GPS systems, do you feel freer or more under control?
- 5) Do you think humankind has progressed from a social point of view towards more tolerance?
- 6) Would you agree to choose your future baby’s genre (sex) or physical traits?
- 7) Nuclear power : for or against?
- 8) Do you think you are addicted to technology? Could you live without electricity for a week?
- 9) Saviour siblings : As a parent-to-be, would you contemplate having a child in order to save his brother or sister by stem cell transplant?
- 10) Are progress and religion contradictory or complementary?
- 11) GMOs : genetically modified organisms : advantages and inconvenient?
- 12) What are the causes of global warming? Is it a source of concern for you?
- 13) What do you really do to preserve environment?
- 14) Why don’t government make electric cars compulsory?
- 15) Would you be ready to clone yourself or someone else if it were possible?

Spaces and exchanges :

- 1) Are borders/frontiers important? Is it important to guard them?
- 2) What foreign culture are you particularly attracted to?
- 3) If you were obliged to emigrate to a foreign country, where would you go?
- 4) What difficulties would you expect if you had to emigrate?
- 5) Why do you think some people risk their lives and their children's lives to emigrate?
- 6) What are the different reasons that could make you leave your country?
- 7) Can you think of examples in history of why people were obliged to emigrate?
- 8) If you were obliged to leave France, who/what would you miss most?
- 9) Do you think French culture is attractive? why?
- 10) As a French person, what do you think you could bring to your host country?
- 11) Can you think of French people who have succeeded abroad?
- 12) Do you think it is more difficult to get into an interracial marriage?
- 13) Would you be ready to help someone with a white wedding?
- 14) Have you ever been the victim of racism somewhere?
- 15) Have you ever witnessed any form of racism?
- 16) If you took a gap year in a foreign country, where would you go and what would you do there?
- 17) What do you think you can learn from taking a gap year abroad?
- 18) Would you be ready to join a program like Erasmus and finish your studies abroad?

Powers and places of powers.

- 1) What would you define as a place of power? Can you give examples?
- 2) Are schools or universities places of power? Why (not)?
- 3) Is voting important for you? Why (not)?
- 4) Who or what do you think will influence your vote?
- 5) One person has the power to change the world. Can you think of examples?
- 6) The power of speeches. How can a speech change things? Can you think of examples?
- 7) Does the internet bring any form of power to its users?
- 8) Would you be ready to go into politics? Why (not)?
- 9) The power of money, good or bad?
- 10) Propaganda, a form of power. Can you give examples?
- 11) The power of the press : Power or counter power? Discuss.
- 12) How can citizens resist a form of power they object to?
- 13) Is music a form of power? Why (not)?
- 14) What power do you think your family, your origins and your culture have upon you?
- 15) Can you think of a work of art that has influenced you? Is art a form of power?

Myths and heroes.

- 1) What is your definition of a myth (in English it cannot be a person)? Can you give examples?
- 2) How did you react when you realized that Santa Claus or the Tooth Fairy didn't exist? Why do you think parents feel the need to lie to their children this way? Will you lie to your children the same way?
- 3) Do you **personally know** someone you consider as a hero?
- 4) What kind of hero do you think/hope you may become one day?
- 5) Is being famous enough to be considered as a hero?
- 6) Is being a sports champion enough to be considered as a hero?
- 7) Why do you think different cultures explained the creation of the universe with very different myths?
- 8) Can myths sometimes feed intolerance or even persecution?
- 9) Can you think of people who were once considered as heroes and whose heroism has been debunked with time?
- 10) In times of war, is there any heroism in killing other people for a cause?
- 11) Why do you think superheroes (with super powers) are so important in American culture whereas French superheroes almost don't exist?
- 12) What do you think being an antihero means?
- 13) What historical heroes are a source of inspiration for you?
- 14) Can someone nobody admires be a hero all the same?
- 15) What makes a hero : something you did, or something you are?