**16. Young people and society**

1. Characteristics of young people (appearance, fashion, character traits (črty), interests
2. The position of young people in society (rights and duties, possibilities of study, work, young families)
3. Relationships among peers and generational relationships (conflicts – reasons, their expression, consequences)
4. Unhealthy lifestyles of young people (aggression, gambling, substance abuse)
5. Young people’s vision of the future (expectations, dreams, fears)

**Adolescence** ([ˌædəˈlesəns] from Latin „to grow up“) is stage of development (štádium vývoja) between childhood and **adulthood** ([ædəlthud] dospelosť) when a person is biologically **adult** (dospelý). His/her **physical** [ˈfɪzɪkəl] (fyzický, telesný) and **psychological** [ˌsaɪkəˈlodžɪkəl] development (vývoj) is almost **complete** [kəmˈpliːt] (dokončený) but emotionally he/she is not **fully mature** [məˈtjʊə] (úplne zrelý). A child becomes an adolescent usually after he/she completes secondary school. People from the age of thirteen to the age of nineteen are called “teenagers” because their age ends in „teen” in English. **The age of majority** [məˈdžorɪtɪ] (vek právnej dospelosti), the age at which a person has full legal [ˈliːgəl] rights (zákonné práva), differs from culture to culture. In Slovakia it is 18 years. In each country, there are different age limits for driving a car (18), getting married (18, 16) or buying cigarettes (16). During **puberty** /ˈpjuːbəti - puberta/, most children go through (prechádzajú, prežívajú) dramatic physical (telesné) changes. Boys grow more **facial** [ˈfeɪšəl] **hair** (ochlpenie na tvári), greater **muscle mass** [masl ma:s] (svalová hmota) and a deeper (hlbší) voice, girl’s **breast** [brest] (prsia) **enlarges** [inlaːdžis] (zväčšiť) their **hips widen** [waidn] (boky sa rozširujú), their sex organs change and they are able to reproduce (rozmnožovať sa). Teenagers also undergo mental development. Their emotional [ɪˈməušənl] life is more intensive than before and some begin to develop sexual relationships. Love and friendship become the most important **values** (hodnoty). Teenagers prefer relationships with their **peers** (vrstovníci) to their parents.

**APPEARANCE** (výzor)/**CLOTHES/HAIRSTYLES**- It‘s natural that each generation of young people differs from the one before. Our grandparents lived in totally different conditions which influenced their behaviour, values and attitude [ˈætɪˌtjuːd] towards society. Nowadays, young people use many means (prostriedkov) to look (aby vyzerali) different than older generations; they care a lot about what they look like. Some of them **follow the fashion trends** closely (dôsledne) and **always want to be “in”**, the others often **wear strange clothes**, for example old, dirty and torn (roztrhané) trousers, cheap shoes, old T-shirts. Some like wearing second-hand clothes, some make/sew their clothes themselves, some paint their clothes or dye (farbia) them and, on the other hand, some wear brand (značkové) clothes or designer clothes. Usually, young people wear comfortable (pohodlné) clothes such as T- shirts, tops, jumpers, sweatshirts (mikiny), hoodies (mikiny s kapucňou), jeans and trainers. Girls often wear miniskirts, leggings, tops, jackets, ballerinas and lots of fashion accessories (módnych doplnkov) – bracelets, earrings, necklaces, sunglasses, watches, headbands (čelenky), hair clips (sponky), hats, caps and piercings. Teenagers also have **strange hairstyles**. Some prefer simple hairstyles (účesy), but some prefer “extreme” hairstyles – their hair is often colourful, they dye it pink, purple, red and highlight (melír) is also fashionable. Nowadays it is normal even for boys to **dye** [dai] (farbiť) their hair. **Tattoos and piercing** are very popular among young people. It is very modern. They can have several parts of their body pierced, for example tongue, eyebrow, ear, nose and mouth. Teenagers live in their own world and their lifestyle depends on their parents, background, but mostly on their friends.

**INTERESTS** (záujmy) -It is widely known that teenagers spend a lot of their free time with their peers with whom they have similar interests, such as music, dance, sport, film or fashion. They like going to pubs, cafés, and discos. They love dancing and often spend their Friday night at some night club or a disco. They love talking and chatting and meeting new people. And of course, they love parties. Sometimes they simply **hang around** (tráviť čas, potĺkať sa) together. They love going to the cinema and after the film has finished often talk about the cast (herecké obsadenie), actors, actresses and the plot (dej) in a café or a pub. Young people do not go to the theatre very often. Sometimes, they just download (stiahnu) the film from the internet and they watch it at home. They spend a lot of time in front of their computers and on the Internet, they chat with their friends via (prostredníctvom) social networks (facebook, ICQ, skype, pokec), they make phone calls via SKYPE, watch movies and video clips on “you tube” or just search for information via Google. They love their hi-tech toys and cannot imagine their life without them. Their rooms are full of up-to-date (moderný, najaktuálnejší) gadgets (zariadení) such as camcorders (kamery), cameras (foťáky), PCs, laptops, Hi-fi systems, MP3 players, mobiles, headphones (sluchátka), stereo systems, DVD players, I-pods and many others. They often get some pocket money (vreckové) from their parents but many of them work part-time (pracujú na polovičný úväzok) of have temporary jobs (brigády). Some work in bars, clubs, pubs or supermarkets, some babysit (strážia deti), some help younger ones with subjects (predmetmi) such as English, German, Maths, Physics and tutor [ˈtjuːtə] (doučovať) younger children at primary/secondary schools. In summer they often have a summer job and work in fast food restaurants or go abroad and work at farms, in hotels, on ships. Young people spend (míňajú) a lot of money on CDs, DVDs, clothes and tickets to the cinema, concerts, music festivals and on going out with friends.

**VALUES** (hodnoty) - Love and friendship are the most important **values** (hodnoty) for teenagers. Teenagers prefer relationships with their **peers** (vrstovníci) to their parents. A lot of young people work hard on their relationships because they value friendship so highly. During adolescence young people often **search for** (hľadajú) a **unique** [juni:k] **identity** [aɪˈdentɪtɪ] (jedinečná identita). At this age, sports players, rock stars and film and television performers [pəˈfɔːməz] (e.g. reality shows stars) become role models (vzory) for them. Teenagers often wish to be like their chosen **role model**s (vzory). They identify themselves with others (wear the same clothes, have the same hairstyle, do the same things), but at the same time they want to be different and develop their own individuality. Young people, in general, do not trust the authorities and tend to risk more.

  In the **developed world** (vo vyspelom svete), young people are usually well-educated, experienced and **self-confident** (sebaistý). They have **access** (prístup) to all the modern inventions (vynálezom) that make our lives easier, such as computer, internet or mobile phone. They have a lot of **opportunities** (príležitosti, možnosti) to study or work **abroad** [əˈbrɔːd] (v zahraničí) and often see those opportunities as chances to earn money and gain experience (získať skúsenosť). A lot of Slovak students study abroad (v zahraničí) – in Czech Republic (Prague, Brno, Zlín), Austria (Vienna), the USA, or Great Britain (Veľká Británia – Oxford, Cambridge, London). Those who do not live in the town of their studies, often live in the dormitory [ˈdɔːmɪtərɪ]/campus [ˈkæmpəs] (na internáte). In Britain and America some students attend (chodiť do školy) boarding schools (internátne školy) where they live and study.

Many young people today start their own families later in life than their parents did. Many work on their career first and get married in their thirties. However, there are still many teenage pregnancies (tehotenstvá mladistvých) that often end girls’ education (vzdelanie). These marriages do not last (netrvajú) for a long time and the divorce rate (miera rozvodovosti) is quite high among young married couples (páry).

  Young people often **face many problems**. They are in the age when they need someone who will listen to them talking about their problems, who will give them advice. It is good if this person is one of their parents but this doesn’t happen often. Parents want their children to be the best and the **smartest** (šikovný, inteligentný), to have good marks (známky), appropriate (vhodný) friends and interests/hobbies, help them with the house chores, spend more time learning and preparing for school and less time on the Internet and friends and of course, spend less money on fashion, music and hi-tech toys. Parents often don’t understand their children, criticise their hairstyle, clothes and friends, they think that their children don’t help enough at home, that they don’t study enough, are cheeky (bezočivý) and impolite (nezdvorilý) and that the music they listen to is terrible, noisy and too loud. On the other hand, young people think that their parents care too much and are **overprotective** (príliš ochraňujúci). Children often have different ideas about their future, different life **expectations** (očakávania) and **opinions** (názory) than their parents do. All this **creates tension** [tenšn] (vytvára napätie) between parents and children which leads to **generation gap** (generačná priepasť) and **conflicts**. Children often quarrel (hádajú sa) with their parents about money, friends, interests. Today, more and more parents are friends with their children. Good parents try to show sympathy [simpəθɪ] (prejaviť súcit) and understanding towards their children if they are in trouble. Parents share interests (delia sa o záujmy, majú rovnaké záujmy) and have begun to be more open. Discussions on subjects, such as sex and drugs are becoming normal. However, many parents have less and less time for their children. There are families in which children and parents do not talk about problems. Such children often feel lonely (osamelý, opustený). In extreme cases, they run away from home (utekajú z domova) because they think they can solve the problem that way. They also run away because they are **neglected** [nɪˈglektid] **(zanedbávaný), frustrated** [fraˈstreɪtɪd] **(frustrovaný)**, **stressed out** (vystresovaný), verbally or physically **abused** [əˈbjuːzt] (zneužívaný) or sometimes **misunderstood** [ˌmɪsandəˈstud] (nepochopený). A lot of them become **drug addicts** [drag əˈdɪkts] (drogovo závislý), drink too much alcohol and smoke, develop (rozvinú sa u nich) mental health disorders [mentl hɛlθ dɪsˈoːdəz] (poruchy duševného zdravia), such as depression and schizophrenia [ˌskɪtsəʊˈfriːnɪə], girls sometimes develop eating disorders (poruchy jedenia) including anorexia [ˌænɒˈreksɪə] and bulimia [bjuːˈlɪmɪə]. They vomit [vomit] (vyvrátia) everything they have eaten, are obsessed [əb’sest] with their weight, eat very little. Sometimes the young are not able to handle (zvládať) their problems and they commit suicide. Many of them become **gamblers** [ˈgæmbləz] (hazardný hráči). Young people spend too much time in front of their TV and computers; they don’t go out with their friends very often. They do not read books and they watch movies instead. They chat (čaet-kecajú) with their friends on the Internet through social networks (sociálne siete), develop fictional relationships, and they do not socialize and therefore feel lonely and isolated.

At this age young people are under pressure (sú pod tlakom) because they usually start and complete (končia) their secondary education (stredoškolské vzdelanie) and have to decide (rozhodnúť sa) about their future career. They need a good education to be qualified (mať kvalifikáciu na) for the work they choose (vybrať si) to do. Most teenagers would like to start their own independent (nezávislé) lives but are still financially dependent on (závislý na) their parents. Unemployment [ˌʌnɪmˈplɔɪmənt] is one of the biggest problems that young people have to face, because many of them have problems to get a job.

Problems they have to face (ktorým musia čeliť), ustable (nestabilné) emotions and family conflicts may also lead to **youth crime** (zložinu mladistvých). Vandalism [ˈvændəˌlɪzəm] and **violence** [ˈvaɪələns] (násilie) based on racism are very frequent (častý) in this age group. Groups of young people with **racial prejudices** [reɪšəl predžudɪsiz] (s rasovými predsudkami) regularly (pravidelne) provoke conflicts in many countries In Slovakia, members of skin head movements often attack Romani people and people of different colour. **Addiction** [əˈdɪkʃən] (závislosť), such as alcoholism, drug use and gambling, is another **consequence** [ˈkonsɪkwəns] (dôsledok) of frustration [fraˈstreɪšən], family conflicts or other **teenage problems** (problémy mladistvých). In this age, young people are under a lot of pressure (V tomto veku sú mladí ľudia pod veľkým tlakom).

The relationships between the old and the young generation are often talked about. Puberty, the age of **revolt** (vzbura), often **lead**s (viesť) to conflicts between the generations, called a **generation gap** [ˌdženəˈreɪšən gæp] (generačný rozdiel, priepasť). Young people **are eager** [ɪ:gər] (sú dychtiví) to become adults, but at the same time have **doubts** (pochybnosti) and fears about **taking on** adult **responsibilities** [rɪˌsponsəˈbɪlɪtɪ] (prevziať zodpovednosť) and freedom. It is natural (je prirodzené) that each generation of young people differs from the one before it. Our grandparents lived in totally different conditions which influenced their behaviour, attitude towards society and values.

The older people say that youngsters are irresponsible (nezodpovedný), impolite, and cheeky today. They often criticize the way the young people dress and behave. On the other hand many young people think that the older can’t understand them and they want to be absolutely different from their parents. Both groups should learn how to be more tolerant. The older should remember what they were like when they were young. The young should remember that the older have more experience and that one day they will be in the same situation.

Vypracovať otázky!!!!!!! Pozor, na niektoré nie sú odpovede v texte. Vypracovať na papier, ukázať na hodine!!!

1. What is adolescence?
2. What is puberty?
3. What physical changes do teenagers normally go through?
4. Name some psychological changes that they go through?
5. What kinds of clothes do young people like wearing?
6. Name 10 things that are typical for young people?
7. How do young people spend their free time? What do you usually do in the evening/at weekends?
8. Do Slovak children get on with their parents?
9. What is a unique identity?
10. Why is puberty an age of revolt?
11. Do you talk to your parents about personal matters? Do you have a good relationship with your parents?
12. What do you think of teenage pregnancy?
13. Describe what the ideal childhood for you would be like?
14. How would you characterize friendship? How could you characterize your best friend? Why is he/she your best friend?
15. What do you know about your parents’ or grandparents’ childhood? How was it different from yours?
16. What problems do young people have to face nowadays? (akým problémom musia čeliť mladí v dnešnej dobe)
17. What is a generation gap?
18. Give pros and cons of being young today.
19. How would you characterise a typical teenager?
20. Why do young people tend to risk more and do not trust authorities?
21. What is your vision of the future? What are your expectations (očakávania), dreams, and fears?