**Unit 6 Histories Make Men Wise口语话题**

1.  Do you think life is better now than in the past?

I think life is of course better now than in the past. Thanks to modern technology and advanced medical treatment, we are living a much more convenient and healthier life now. For example, we can rely on modern communication technology to contact friends far away, and we have extended our life expectancy significantly.

//No, I don’t think life is any better now than in the past. Although modern technology has brought convenience to us, it has caused problems as well. People don’t know or care about each other even if they are neighbors. Moreover, people nowadays have many diseases which did not exist in the past. The environmental pollution is also one of the greatest problems that the world is facing now.

2. If you could have lived through a different age or decade, which would you choose and why?

Personally, I would probably choose to live in the 1980s. Firstly, it’s because the relationships among people then were easy and simple. People cared about each other and lived a happy life. Secondly, there were not many pollutants at that time. The air was clean and the environment was friendly. Finally, I love rock and roll, and I think the 1980s was the best period in the development of rock and roll in China.

3. In your opinion, what historical events or people have changed the course of history? In what way(s)?

In my opinion, the invention of the steam engine has greatly changed the world. The steam engine was the foremost energy source in the emerging Industrial Revolution, and enormously multiplied its productive capacity. Not only did steam engines power factories that made the rapid production of goods possible, but also powered the trains and steamships that carried those goods across the globe. With Watt’s invention of the first practical steam engine, our world was radically transformed from an agricultural society into an industrial one.

4. Choose a topic and talk about how it changed as you grew up:

• music

• TV and / or films

• sports

• technology

• fashion

I choose TV and / or films

I still remember when I was a kid, I loved watching Hollywood blockbusters on VCD. One film released on VCD could come as many as three discs, depending on the length of the film. Then suddenly, in the mid 1990s, DVD became popular on the market. One Hollywood blockbuster can be stored on only one disc of DVD, and the image on DVD is much clearer than that on VCD. However, at the end of 2000s, a new disc, Blu-ray disc began to take the lead on the market. Films on Blu-ray discs are very impressive because of the high resolution, which means the image is extremely clear.

5. Introduce your favorite artist. Your introduction needs to cover the following aspects:

• his / her life experience

• his / her artistic style and influence

• his / her masterpiece(s)

My favorite artist is Wang Xizhi, who was a Chinese calligrapher and traditionally referred to as the Sage of Calligraphy (书圣). Born in 303 A.D. in the state of Eastern Jin, Wang Xizhi started learning how to write when he was seven. He began by mastering the regular script. As Wang grew older, he began to develop his own style of writing. He excelled in every script but particularly in the running script, a more flowing style of writing. He is considered by many to be one of the most esteemed Chinese calligraphers of all time. His most famous work is the “Preface to the Poems Composed at the Orchid Pavilion”, also known as “Lan Ting Xu”. It was both composed and hand-written by Wang Xizhi and is considered the greatest masterpiece of Chinese calligraphy in history.