

Reported Speech (Reported Questions) – Junior Secondary

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Part A

Mark wanted to investigate the dating habits of secondary school students for his Liberal Studies assignment. He conducted interviews with teachers and secondary school students.

Below is his report on the findings of the study.

Text

Interviews were conducted with some secondary school students and teachers to find out their attitudes towards dating. The following are some interesting findings.

When asked if they were in favour of student dating, most of the teachers and students I interviewed gave affirmative replies. When I asked them how old the students should be when they had the first date, most of the respondents supported student dating as long as the people involved were at least 16 years old. They felt that those younger than that were not mature enough to handle relationships wisely.

The respondents were asked if they thought dating interfered with schoolwork. Most students and teachers commented that some students might spend too much time on dates, which could lead to examination failure. I asked the students who had dating experience if they spent a lot of time and money on dates. They admitted that dating indeed cost them a lot of time and money. When asked why they spent so much money and time dating, most of them said that they spent a lot of time together on various kinds of activities. I asked them what activities they did together. The findings show that the top three activities were watching films, eating out and buying presents.

The participating students and teachers were also asked whether dating would bring any positive changes to students. Surprisingly, most of the teachers accepted that dating could be a good thing because it helped students to grow up.

I am still analyzing the results of some other questions at present. If you would like to see the full questionnaire, you can find it at the Social Club website.

(Adapted from Booker, R. (2010). *Longman elect, New senior secondary*, p. 191. Hong Kong: Longman.)

- (1) Read the findings above. Find out what Mark asked in his interview. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1.	<u>When asked if they were in favour of student dating</u> , most of the teachers and students I interviewed gave affirmative replies.
2.	When I asked them how old the students should be when they had the first date, most of the respondents...
3.	The respondents were asked if they thought dating interfered with schoolwork.
4.	I asked the students who had dating experience if they spent a lot of time and money on dates.
5.	When asked why they spent so much money and time dating, most of them ...
6.	I asked them what activities they did together.
7.	The participating students and teachers were also asked whether dating would bring any positive changes to students.

- (2) Read Mark's indirect questions in the report (Question (1) above). Work out the direct questions that appear in Mark's questionnaire. The first one has been done for you as an example

Indirect questions found in the report	Direct questions asked in the questionnaire
1. When asked if they were in favour of student dating...	Are you in favour of student dating?
2. When I asked them how old the students should be when they had the first date, most of the respondents...	How old should the students be when they have the first date?
3. The respondents were asked if they thought dating interfered with schoolwork.	Do you think that dating interferes with schoolwork?

4. I asked the students who had dating experience if they spent a lot of time and money on dates.	For the students who have dating experience: Do you spend a lot of time and money on dates?
5. When asked why they spent so much money and time dating, ...	Why do you spend so much money and time dating?
6. I asked them what activities they did together.	What activities do you do together?
7. The participating students and teachers were also asked whether dating would bring any positive changes to students.	Will dating bring any positive changes to students?

(3) Work with a partner. Discuss how the questions in the questionnaire are different from those in the report.

<p>Words added/deleted in reported questions –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For Yes/No questions: The word “if” / ‘whether’ is added. - For Wh-questions: Keep the wh-words.
<p>Tense –</p> <p>Normally, the tense in reported speech is one tense back in time from the tense in direct speech.</p> <p>e.g. In direct questions, the tense used is present tense. In reported questions, it is past tense.</p>
<p>Word order –</p> <p>In a direct question, the auxiliary verb comes before the subject. In a reported question, the</p>

subject comes before the verb, and the dummy 'do' used in the direct question is deleted.

Part B

Mark asked another six questions during his interview. Follow the steps below to write a short report to present the findings.

The report on Questions 8 has been done below as an example. In pairs, finish the reports on Questions 9-10.

No.	Questions	Response
8.	Where do you usually go on your dates?	Usually cinemas, restaurants and malls.
9.	How much money are you willing to spend on dating?	Some students: as much as I can afford Some students: don't want to spend too much
10.	Do your parents know about your dating?	Most: no.

8. When asked where they usually went on dates, students reported that usually they would go to cinemas, restaurants and malls for entertainment.
9. When I asked students how much money they were willing to spend on dating, they gave mixed responses: while some students said that they would spend as much as they could afford, some others mentioned that they did not want to spend too much.
10. I asked if their parents knew about their dating. Most of the students chose not to tell their parents about their love affairs.

Below are the remaining three questions and the responses. Think about how to report the questions, and then write a short text reporting the findings.

No.	Questions	Response
11	What is your parents' attitude towards	Most: negative.

	your dating?	
12	Do you discuss your dating problems with other people?	A majority of the students: Yes
13	With whom do you choose to discuss your dating problems?	Most of the time: friends

No.	How to report the questions in the report
11.	
12.	
13.	

A paragraph to report the findings of questions 11-13.

Part C

In pairs, think of an issue you would like to investigate. Conduct interviews and write a report. Use the table below to help you.

Research topic:
Proposed interview questions: 1. _____ _____ _____ 2. _____ _____ _____ 3. _____ _____ _____ 4. _____ _____ _____ 5. _____ _____ _____

Take notes during your interviews:



7. Now write a report to present the results.



