1. What do you think is (or should be) the role of humour in today’s society? Is it essential to human progress? Does humour perform the same functions in all cultures?

2. Throughout history, humour has given rise to a wide range of art genres — from fables and burlesque poems (like “Eneida” by Kotliarevskyi) to cartoons and stand-up comedies. Which of them do you like the most? Give reasons for your choices.

3. What do you understand by a sense of humour? Is it about doing things that make people laugh — such as cracking jokes or sending someone up? Or is it about not taking life too seriously and being able to see the funny side of a situation?

4. Is the sense of humour innate or acquired? Will it be possible in the near future to build a robot possessing this quality?

5. Can you explain the difference between being funny and being ridiculous? What do you and your friends mainly laugh at?

6. What is your attitude towards jokes or stories whose main characters are members of a particular ethnic, social or occupational group?

7. Are there jokes that make you feel uncomfortable? If so, what exactly annoys or offends you?

8. Have you ever been hoaxed? If so, how did you react? Did you feel the urge to get back at those who had played trick on you?

9. Although we live in a rapidly globalising world, each culture has a set of features that distinguish it from other ones. Hence what is considered funny in one country may not go over well in another one. Can you give us an example of British, American, German, French or Ukrainian humour? Why do jokes often get lost in translation?

10. In English, there are a number of idioms about humour and laughter such as “have the last laugh”, “laughing stock”, “laugh your head off”, “split your sides”, “deadpan humour”, “practical joke”, “gallows humour”, “slapstick comedy”, etc. Can you guess their meanings? Do you know other idioms of this kind?