

15. A _____ from i'ubhc Affairs.
_____ feature of modern diplomacy is that it has become more open to the public at large.

Exercise 34

Read the text and **make up 10 questions to cover its contents.**

The Challenges a Future Diplomat May Face

Foreign Offices or Ministries of Foreign Affairs in national capitals are staffed with officers of different ranks exercising their duties in various departments. They analyze and report to their seniors **on** political matters that may affect the national interests of their country. **They** communicate their government views on political issues to **foreign** officials, negotiate agreements and maintain contact with political leaders, third country diplomats and other influential people.

Among the challenges that service in a ministry of foreign affairs offers are being able to report and interpret events and trends *in* a variety of cultures and political systems. Foreign officers must also be able to communicate rapidly and concisely, and be flexible in handling various responsibilities, especially in smaller posts. In more specialized areas they are expected to know the language, history, culture and politics of a nation or a region in which they specialize.

As distinct from those who work in a foreign office, a diplomat working abroad is on duty in the front line all the time. He must be committed to promote and defend his country's policy abroad in various ways. His first and foremost duty is to keep the authorities in his country constantly informed about the current events taking place in the country of his residence related to not only political but also economic and cultural issues. His job may involve reporting and analyzing the events and changes in the host country, briefing and suggesting remarks for a visiting senior official, and perhaps, escorting the official, while handling the daily flow⁷ of cables and correspondence relating to the visit.

Besides the most important duties, there is in every Embassy and Legation an immense amount of routine work, and many monotonous

subjects may crop up. One of the chief functions of the head of the mission is to train the junior members of the service in the right performance of their duties,, especially in the preparation of reports on subjects of interest, in drafting dispatches and paraphrasing the text of ciphered telegrams. Serving in various countries abroad diplomats and their families may face various challenges ranging from harsh climates to lack of jobs for the spouses and schools for the children.

In the international organizations diplomatic work is distinguished by the fact that diplomats serve not only as representatives and promoters of their country's interests guided by the instructions of national authorities and as their political advisers but also as contributors to the interests of the global community.

In diplomatic life at home and abroad success in the Foreign Service requires a strong command of the mother tongue as well as of a foreign language since language problems crop up at every step. All F.S. officers must be able to speak and write clearly, concisely, persuasively and correctly.

(from *On Diplomatic Practice*)

Exercise 35

Discuss the text in pairs. Make use of your questions.

Exercise 36

Say what you think of the following:

1. Why are reporting and interpreting events and trends **in** the world political systems referred to as challenges for a political officer?
2. What do various responsibilities in smaller posts involve?
3. What are the ways in which a diplomat may promote his country's interests?
4. Why is it necessary for a diplomat to have a strong command of the mother tongue as well as a foreign language?
5. How important is good knowledge of the history and culture of the country a diplomat specializes in?