

- 2) why there are so many young people willing to enter the career of a Foreign Service officer;
- 3) what rewards the career of a diplomat may offer;
- 4) how appealing those rewards are for your partner;
- 5) if there is anything that s/he does not accept about this career and why;
- 6) if the career of a Foreign Service officer is really for him / her;
- 7) if s/he sees her/himself in the profession of a diplomat;
- 8) what and why is more important for your partner in his / her future career: money, interest, challenge, an opportunity to travel or promotion opportunities.

b. *Make notes and report your findings to the class.*

#### Exercise 46

*Sum up the arguments 'for' and 'against' sending as a foreign officer in general and for you personally. Record the arguments in the table below and report them in class.*

For	Against

#### Exercise 47

a. *Read the text and find 21 qualities which are required to be a good diplomat*

#### Some Qualities Desirable in a Future Diplomat

A popular notion which has done much in the past to discredit the diplomatic profession is that the chief duty of a diplomat is to secure some advantage for his own country over another, if necessary by means which are not strictly straightforward. Past history affords

many instances to support this view. In the year 1604 Sir Henry Wotton defined an Ambassador as "an honest man sent to lie abroad for the good of his country".

Nations as to their proper qualifications of a diplomat vary today as much as they varied in previous centuries. The only invariable rule is to find the right man for the right place. It is difficult to lay down the law. Diplomats must be human, versatile and adaptable. A diplomat must possess initiative and personality.

He should have the faculty of mixing and getting on with anyone in any walk of life and of treating all as equals. He should have sufficient self-confidence to stand up to anyone in any walk of life, Sovereign, Prime Minister or whatever he may be.

Powers of observation, of description, sound judgement and a faculty of hard work are so essential as to go without saying; so is the readiness to take responsibilities, provided it is certain that they are not of some senior officer.

Certainly a diplomat should not be emotionally effusive in his behaviour, however excellent the relations may be which he is called upon to conduct. And certainly he should preserve calm when things go wrong and relations become strained.

A certain capacity for deception as far as ordinary *usual* manners is needed. Like everyone else who aspires to be socially welcome, he must keep a good deal of what he thinks to himself and say for the sake of politeness a good many unimportant things he does not mean. Above all he must constantly steer a course between extremes. He must be intelligent, carefully refrain from any oppressive display of intellectual powers. He must invariably be dignified, have humour and wit, and there is one final virtue that must be specifically mentioned and which is the essence of the profession, this is patience, without which the would-be diplomat will never in reality become a diplomat at all.

And finally it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of a thorough knowledge of languages for a diplomat. An envoy who can spare time to study the language of the country to which he is sent, will find its acquisition of great advantage. The surest way to gain admission to the heart of the nation is to give this proof of a desire to