Gesture and sign language

1 Gesture
Ask a friend or colleague to describe one of the following: i) steps in starting and driving a car, ii) how to play a sport of their choice, or iii) a salient or memorable incident from their childhood.

With their permission, record the person's spoken description using the video function on a smartphone.

a. Now, identify and label the types of gestures used, in their description, with the relevant time stamps for each gesture.
b. Which chunks of discourse do these gesture coincide with?
c. Provide an analysis of at least three distinct types of gesture, and explain their function in facilitating the speaker’s meaning.

2 Sign language
a. In your own words, provide a definition of language.
b. Now provide a definition for i) spoken language, and ii) sign language.
c. How do these definitions diverge from your definition of ‘language’?
d. Find out which sign languages are commonly used in your home country.
e. Find out whether there is any legislation that protects the fundamental rights of deaf people and/or their use of sign language in your home country.
f. What do you understand by the term ‘deaf culture’? Find out as much as you can about deaf culture in your home country, or a country of your choice.