1-   What is your general learning/studying model?

In my experience, I believe my optimal learning model, when studying or learning concepts for the first time, is one-to-one learning (it could be just me and the professor). Even in classes, I get distracted by other people. I can confidently say that my ideal situation was classes during the COVID period: I was the only one in the room with the professor, I was laser-focused, and there were no distractions during the class. The only time I preferred learning in a class setting was when a special question or idea was raised, making the concept stand out in my memory.

2-   You said you mostly preferred 1-1 studying; Have you ever tried studying in groups?

Yes, I have tried. There have been times where I attempted it but ended up feeling stressed. This was mostly before exam time, when we aimed to understand a concept or solve a problem together with other students in a group.

3-   What do you think is the problem that makes studying in groups inefficient/stressful for you?

I recall that it was during the exams, which were already stressful, and the time to fully grasp all the concepts and materials was short. Seeing other members of the group understand a specific subject very quickly (faster than me) made me nervous. Essentially, the variance in the time needed to completely understand a topic caused disorganization and led to anxiety for the person who had fallen behind and a waste of time for the person who was advanced. So, in these cases, I prefer studying alone.

4-   You said you prefer studying alone when you want to fully understand a concept in order to get ready for the exams. Has there been any situation where you preferred studying in groups over studying alone?

Yes. For the projects in our classes where we had to apply what we had learned, group study was preferable. So, I guess when everyone has a good understanding of the material and can share knowledge and work on a practical problem, the results are significantly better.

5-   Have you ever had any positive experience in studying in groups for the exams?

Yes, there were two courses that were very challenging. Essentially, we needed not only to understand the material but also to read/review many research papers and eventually present our analysis on the subject. For these courses, we managed to study effectively in a group. Our approach was to first study the subject individually and read a couple of papers. Then, we attempted to explain the papers to the group and shared our different analyses on the subject. This strategy helped us save time and review as many papers as possible. For these cases, group study was indispensable for handling the workload and

passing the course! When I fully understood the subject as a group member, I could share knowledge with more confidence.

6- Is there anything that you would change/improve these sessions?

Yes, sometimes the members' goals and levels of responsibility/dedication had a significant gap: I wanted the session to progress, but some others didn't seem to care as much. They wanted far more breaks than I considered necessary, and they seemed more interested in socializing rather than studying. I was more focused, wanting to finish faster and cover more material.

7- In these cases, how many people did you use to study with?

2,3

8- Did you know all the group members?

Yes, in fact, the more I knew the group members, the better and more efficiently our project or study session progressed. There were times when one of my friends brought another friend to the session, but we didn't get along well. Either our learning methods didn't align, or I didn't perceive a commitment to the actual learning process from them.

9- Where did you use to have your sessions? How were they?

Mostly online, but sometimes in person as well. We usually went to the university library. I personally prefer in-person sessions because you can immediately interact with the other person, show graphs, papers, etc. However, I do not prefer cafes or any place that serves food, as they only add more distractions.