

## Part 1: Let's Talk About Coffee or Tea

What do you drink more?

*From dusk till dawn I guzzle coffee, and I've been doing that since I first discovered it on an expedition to Ethiopia 10 years ago. I used to sip on tea when I was a teenager, but my introduction to coffee from the Ethiopian hills of Sidamo converted my drinking habit.*

Which do you usually serve your guests, coffee or tea?

*If I have a visitor that I'm unfamiliar with, of course I'd ask which they prefer. Normally, unless requested otherwise, I offer a cup of joe because I'm aware that the company I keep appreciates the taste and aroma of coffee beans.*

Do you prefer different morning and evening beverages?

*As I stated earlier, I drink coffee sun up to sun down, so my drink selection does not change over the course of a day. If it is ever determined that coffee is overwhelmingly unhealthy for consumption, I'd likely change this habit.*

# Part 1: Countryside Living

Example Answers

**Did you ever live in the countryside?**



- The **rural areas** are absolutely **breathtaking**, and I first settled there from 5-10 years of age.
- Afterwards**, there was an 8 year period of city living with family, that was followed by my return to the outskirts for university studies.

**How did you feel about living there**



- To be honest**, I can't recollect any specific **emotions** from ages 5-10, **but** when I look back on the photos from my life in the backcountry, I was **smiling** in every photograph.
- On the other hand, I have **vivid recollections** of the **latter** period during university which was filled with **peace** and **tranquility** from the surrounding virgin forest.

**Would you like to live there again?**



- To tell the truth**, my long-term plan includes returning to the **rural districts** where the population is under 10,000 and the beauty is undeniably green.
- To escape** my current polluted city lifestyle, I'll **take up country living** again very soon.

# Part 1: Haircut

Example Answers

**Do you like to dye your hair?**



- In my country, the typical man doesn't really **color their hair**; however, I'm unconventional and actually **enjoy** the experience of entering the salon with **brown hair** and exiting with **green tresses**.
- The sight of a new color on top of my head **changes my mood for the better**.

**Have you ever had a bad haircut?**



- I've had the experience of a **horrible** visit to an inexperienced **barber**.
- I can still vividly recall looking in the mirror, mouth **agape** in **horror**, at the bald runway along the middle of my head. **Apparently**, the barber forgot to reattach **the guard** to the **clippers** and left me looking ridiculous.

**How often do you get a haircut?**



- As far as I'm concerned, a real man should set a **bi-weekly** appointment with his **hair technician**, if he can afford it.
- Personally, I'm in the **barber chair** only **once a month** because I'm destitute as a result of my university expenses.
- Once I graduate, I'll be in the chair every **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday**.

# Part 1 Housing Question

Example Answers

## Where do you live?



- Currently, I'm residing with a homestay family located in Tallahassee, Florida, a state in the southern part of the United States.
- I was placed with this 4-person family by a **housing agency** that works with students who are on a temporary visa, and I've been **domiciled** there for the past 2 years.

## What do you like most about the place?



- Well, there are numerous benefits that I could speak on, but if I had to narrow it down, I'd settle on the family.
- When I matriculated to the USA to study, I wanted total immersion in English, and this verbose family speaks perfectly accented English with a wide range of vocabulary.

## What are some changes in the area you'd like?



- Overall, I'm overjoyed with my living situation, but one alteration to the neighborhood that I'd appreciate would be converting the abandoned areas to dog parks.
- Right around the corner from my residence is an empty lot, filled nightly with shady characters hanging out.
- If they redesigned this eyesore, it would make it unattractive to these undesirable vagabonds.

# Part 1: Mathematics

Example Answers

## Is mathematics an important subject?



- In general, yes. Mind you however, I don't believe ALL math courses taught in school are relevant or practical to our everyday lives.
- Knowing the technicalities of creating a mathematical table in statistics is more meaningful in adulthood than trigonometry or calculus.

## Do you think it is difficult to study math?



- Some would say that it depends on the natural talents you're born with, and I believe that to a certain extent (limited degree).
- When it comes down to it however, most of the challenges associated with mastering math relate to having a weak or strong foundation.

## Are girls good at mathematics?



- If you asked the average person, they would likely answer in the negative based upon observations and gender present in their arithmetic, algebra, or calculus classes.
- However, actual scientific studies reveal that young ladies are equal in ability, and that their mathematical flaws result from societal bias rooted in male favoritism.

# Part 1: Where are you from?

Sample Answers

## Where are you from?

- I was **born and raised** in Accra, Ghana, which is a city located on the coast of Ghana.
- Ghana is a country situated within West Africa, and **formerly known as** the Gold Coast during the colonial period.

## Would you prefer to live somewhere else?

- To be honest, I can't imagine another nation I'd rather have as a permanent home than Ghana, as its more business and culturally oriented than most countries I've **come to know**.
- However, If we are speaking on a temporary basis, then yes, I'd feel privileged to reside in another city that has snow and ice **since** that's so different from my weather.

## Is your city a good place for young people?

- Over the past two years, Ghana has doubled **its tourism due to the incredible nightlife, beaches, unique adventures and cultural excursions**, so I'd absolutely recommend any young adult to visit Accra.
- Most of us in our 20s and 30s aren't **particularly rich**, so Accra would be an attractive option since it's so **budget-friendly** to go along with a warm sense of **hospitality**.

# Part 1: Painting

Example Answers

## Do you like painting?

- I've never produced any type of **art work**, let alone painting, but as they say, you never know unless you try.
- That being said, I have a **deep appreciation** for creativity in general, so I imagine that using a **color palate** to create images would be an **enjoyable** activity.

## What kind of pictures would you like to draw?

- Having** never taken a **paint brush** and used my hand to gracefully make **strokes** across a **canvas**, I'm not sure what recognizable **image** I could produce.
- Anyway**, I suppose that recreating **scenes** of daily African life or **portraits** of ancestors would encompass the majority of my efforts since I love the motherland and my predecessors.

## Do you think having pictures at home is good?

- I've been** in residences that are devoid of portraits or drawings, **and** I found them to be boring and lifeless.
- Based upon those **observations**, I definitely believe that **hanging** or **standing** **photographs** in the house is a **fantastic** idea.
- Seeing a portrayal of my ancestors **warms** my heart and fills me with **inspiration**.

## Part 1: Let's talk about street markets



What is the main reason you like street markets?

I purchase snacks and even full dinners from **neighborhood stalls** primarily **because** the selections are cheap and I like supporting small businesses. **For example**, last week I was able to buy a Schwarma from a mom-and-pop enterprise for just-a dollar, **and** it was ready within just 5 minutes.



Do you ever go to street markets in other countries you visit?

**Recently** I traveled to Brazil, **but** before I left, I actually spent a lot of time on YouTube specifically researching the types of products that I could buy from **street vendors** in Rio de Janeiro. Then, **when** I arrived, I used this research to take the **pulse** of the city by buying small street-wares and having engaging conversations with sellers.

# Part 1 Work or Study Question

Example Answers

## Do you work or study?



- I used to be **employed** as an archeologist, **but** now I'm a **full-time student** in the field of ancient philosophy.
- I've **been** studying this subject for the past year, **and** plan to complete my **doctorate** by 2021.

## What do you like most about this subject?



- The thing is**, I never thought I'd **enjoy** philosophical studies, **but** now I've been **enamored with** the continuing validity of ancient concepts in our modern technological world.
- What I mean by that is** the idea of **utilitarianism** was applicable 200 years ago, **and** is still debated today on it solving the ills of modern society.

## Is your subject popular to study in your country?



- Although** philosophy has become **favored** in western countries, it has not **taken hold** in modern China to a **high degree** as in the past.
- Unfortunately**, materialism attracts most Chinese citizens; therefore they seek a doctorate **based upon** the wealth it can **garner**, instead of the wisdom and knowledge **imparted by** Lao Tzu, Mozi or Confucius.

## Part 1: Let's talk about being a Team Captain



Have you ever been a team captain?

I've never had the opportunity to actually lead a group of individuals placed together to achieve a goal, but I've observed this type of leadership as a team member. That being said, as I grow in my career as an architect, I expect that I'll have a chance to take on the mantle team captaincy.



What are the qualities of a team captain?

As I stated, I've never been the head-honcho and taken on the responsibility of guiding a crew. However, from what I've read and experienced as a team member, figureheads should be honest, creative, organized, communicative, confident, and inspirational. I'd rank these as the highest attributes.

# Part 1: Voice Change

Example Answers

## Did you voice change since childhood?



- By the words “since childhood”, I’m going to assume we’re talking about from ages 1-13.
- With that in mind, my voice became almost unrecognizably deeper at the age of 14, and then dropped a few octaves more after I turned 18.

## Does your voice resemble anyone in your family?



- At this time, no, not really, because most of my male family members have higher pitched voices.
- I’ve heard that my great-grandfather spoke in powerfully deep tones that could shake a house, so maybe I derived my timbre and sound quality from him.

## Why do voices change?



- From what I’ve read, the most common reason for a difference in voice range is due to the maturity of the human voice box.
- In addition to voice box development, our voice alters due to smoking, lung capacity or larynx damage.

## Part 1: Work Answers

Do you work or are you a student?

*"Right...well, until last August 2018, I was seeking a **Masters in computer science**, but since graduating, I've been working in my field of software development. Currently, IBM employs me in their new products division located in Accra, Ghana"*

What do you dislike about your job

*"Recently I've been considering the pros and cons of my employment. At the end of the day, I like 90% of my work responsibilities, but I would have to say that I disapprove of the long working hours and the unusual schedule that results from us having to collaborate with clients in Japan.*

Would you consider changing your job in the future?

*"As I was saying, I enjoy 90% of my duties with IBM. Could another company really offer more than 90% satisfaction? Here's the thing, if I shift to another employer, I might discover that the grass is not greener on the other side. Therefore, I intend to remain at IBM for the foreseeable future.*