**Small talk:**

* Hello, Name. I’m Mark Norkin. Thanks so much for coming in.
* It’s my pleasure, thanks so much for meeting with me.
* Did you have any trouble with connection this meeting?
* Nope, the instructions in e-mail were great.
* Good. Did you do anything interesting over the weekend?
* Yes, I go to the park with my family. And you?
* I celebrated my mom’s birthday.
* Sounds great.
* Would you like some tea or coffee before we begin?
* No, everything is alright.
* Okay, so, let’s start.

**Questions:**

**1.** Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I’m a third-year student at Saint-Petersburg State University in the direction “Fundamental Mechanics and Mathematics”. I chose the department of the hydroaeromechanics, where I will deal with computer simulations. This includes simulating liquids, gases and multiphase flows

I also have some programming experience in various languages, mostly C-like, and some experience in tutoring.

**2.** Do you have any job experience?

As I said, I have been working as a tutor of mathematics and physics

**3.** What are your career goals?

Well, I want to become qualified worker in CFD, develop new solutions in this area and make them publicly available. I also want to try new methods in CFD, which can significantly change the approach to the problems. I want to make life better, if that doesn't sound too loud.

**4.** Would you like to have a part-time or a full-time job?

For me at this stage of life, this is not too important, but since the field of work implies the presence of creativity, and therefore inspiration, it would probably be advisable to consider the possibility of part-time work, but this is more dependent on all employees.

**5.** Are you willing to work overtime?

Our field often assumes that you are constantly thinking about a problem that you are working on somewhere in the back of your mind. If we are talking about delays in the office or taking extra work home, I understand that at some points this is inevitable, but on an ongoing basis I am not ready for this, I want to be able to somehow plan my time, and not live in a state of eternal deadline.

**6.** Would you prefer to change jobs regularly or have a lifelong position?

This is a good question. I would like to be able to constantly learn something new and grow professionally. If a life position can give me that, then there is not much point in changing jobs.

**7.** What do you think of job-hopping/ changing jobs every 3-4 years?

I prefer to choose a job with a long-term perspective, where I can learn a lot of new things. And it seems to me that a company should provide opportunities for developing the skills of its employees. If you managed to learn everything in 4 years, then either the company doesn’t care about staff turnover, or you actually didn’t learn everything.

**8.** Do you prefer to work alone or in a team?

It all depends on the task that is being solved at the moment. At the stage of discussing the problem, looking for possible behavior of the same crack, it is very useful to talk with someone, that is, to work in a team. At the stage of calculations, it is better not to be distracted by extraneous things in order to avoid possible errors. In my opinion, the ideal option is teamwork with the possibility of privacy.

**9.** Do you get on well with people?

It seems to me that any skill can be improved endlessly, the same applies to communication skills. I can relax a person or defuse a tense situation, but I can't become a stranger's best friend in two minutes. In the field of professional communication, ethics and respect for the interlocutor are more important, with which I am good at.

**10.** Are you able to work under pressure?

Well, when someone is standing over me with a gun, it is somewhat difficult. Just kidding. In fact, in the modern world, situations often arise when you have to work under stress, I think most people are already used to this. Personally, I have noticed more than once that in emergency situations I think a little faster, and my reactions become more acute.

**11.** How would you define success?

Well, for me, success is a movement towards some kind of global goal, the constant successful overcoming of obstacles and the realization of something new at all levels of understanding.

**12.** How would you describe your ideal work environment?

For me, the ideal work environment is a symbiosis of a friendly atmosphere, the opportunity to consult with colleagues, help them solve their problems, coupled with the opportunity to retire for a while and focus on solving your problem without fear of being considered impolite or associative.

**13.** What do you find are the most difficult decisions to make?

For me, the most difficult thing is to make decisions for others, without knowing their opinion, when we work with them on an equal footing or when their contribution to this matter is greater than mine. This does not mean that I do not have leadership qualities, I just think that a real leader should first listen to the opinion of the team, its ideas, its ways of solving the problem, express their opinion, and only after that make a decision, weighing everything.

**14.** What is your greatest strength?

Enthusiasm and creative approach to the problem. I approach any task with anticipation and renewed vigor, and I always look at the task from different angles, from which it sometimes opens from a new perspective, which makes it possible to speed up the process of solving it.

**15.** What is your greatest weakness?

Public performance. I can pull myself together and perform at a high level, but I feel uncomfortable due to the need to speak in front of strangers, in a familiar company everything goes easily and naturally. But I try to perform as much as possible, I think this is due to the lack of experience. As soon as there is more of it, I am sure that I will take it much easier.

**16.** What do you think are the most rewarding aspects of a job?

Definitely, this is satisfaction from the work done, like a pleasant fatigue in the muscles after a fruitful workout. It's a wonderful feeling when you realize that you've done it, overcome yourself, that you're still growing, you can set goals for yourself and achieve them. It's like Thor and his "still worthy" of his hammer.

**17.** What motivates you to work hard?

Desire. The desire to make the world a better place, to become better yourself, to move to a new level. And I'm just interested in what I do, this is how I chose my profession, because, as Haruka Murakami said, "the profession should initially be an act of love, but not a marriage of convenience."

**18.** What outside interests do you have?

From early childhood I loved to read, so this is with me for all life, I very love literature. In addition, I love programming small interesting projects, like snake game or solvers for games.

**19.** How would you describe your dream job?

Lying on the beach and doing nothing. Just kidding, I would get bored pretty quickly. For me, the ideal job is working in a good team, where everyone is truly passionate about their work, everyone grows and develops, where colleagues constantly discuss the tasks set, and truth is born in a dispute. And everyone does everything before the deadline, so it doesn't feel like something terrible, just a new stage, a new task.

**20.** Some people prefer to work for a large company. Others prefer to work for a small company. Which do you prefer and why?

It used to be that the size of a company affects its capabilities, but this is actually not true in some areas. I want to work in a company that has entered or is planning to enter the international level, as this is a new experience, new approaches to solving problems, new broader opportunities. I want to work in a company that gives employees the opportunity for development and personal growth. Its size does not matter.

**21.** If you decide to continue your studies, where would you like to do it?

Already now I can say that I plan to continue my studies. I like my university and the department I have chosen, so I would like to finish my studies here. But if it comes to an internship abroad in a country where my direction is well developed, I would be very happy to get such an experience, if it works out.

**22.** What invention or discovery do you consider to be the most important in the history of the science you major in?

The invention of quantifiers and math language, they greatly simplified the recording of proofs of fundamental theorems. Just kidding, in fact, it seems to me that all the most significant is yet to come, the peak of opportunities has not yet been reached. It also seems to me a rather significant discovery that the transition to complex variables in the process of solving real mechanical problems, which unexpectedly simplifies the path to the result.

**23.** Where do you see yourself in five years’ time?

Well, I'm a graduate student working in my departments or in company, which using CFD to solve engineering problems. I understand that life is unpredictable, so you have to be flexible to stick to your goals, so writing out a step-by-step plan right now is not very smart, I just noted broad areas.

**24.** Would you like to work at home? What are advantages and disadvantages of working from home?

This is a rather controversial topic. On the one hand, it is convenient to work at home, you sit in a comfortable environment, you can safely leave at any time. But at the same time, discussing some problems with colleagues is not very convenient, and you may get the feeling that you are not in a hurry, you don’t need to go anywhere, which does not contribute to working capacity. The last point does not concern me, I can work from home, but if the work involves team discussions, I would prefer to be able to communicate with colleagues in the office.

**25.** Do you think it is more important to make a lot of money or to enjoy your job?

It seems to me that it is much more important to enjoy the process of work. Even if the work brings a lot of money, they will not bring pleasure if you go to work every day, like hard labor.

**26.** Have you ever done any volunteer work? As such, I had no experience as a volunteer officialy, but I were playing a Santa Clause role for children with serious disease.

**27.** What should be done to attract more young people to science?

Well, it seems to me that it is worth organizing more conferences for schoolchildren of primary and secondary age, aimed at telling them about certain branches of science, about current problems and ways to solve them. It is also worth making circles such as robotics, programming and mathematics accessible to the public, attracting real scientists there. The problem lies, among other things, in the fact that teachers cannot present the material in an interesting way, and at the same time, not everyone can afford to go to a good club, since it can be far from home.

**28.** What qualities are vital for a scientist?

Research interest and healthy perseverance. The scientist should look at the problem from different angles, try to find the shortcomings of the working method, ways to optimize, and also not give up at the slightest failure. But at the same time, you should not be too persistent if it is clear that the path will not lead to a result. Also, openness to the new is very important for a scientist, the rigidity of thinking will hinder the development of science.

**29.** Is a foreign language important for your future career? Why or why not?

Yes, sure. Discoveries are being made not only in our country, but also abroad, you need to be aware of what is happening in the scientific community. This includes various articles, international conferences, most of which, of course, will be held in English. In addition, some books and articles do not translate or lose their meaning when translated, so you should always be able to read them in the original.

**30.** Do you consider teaching as a career choice? Why or why not?

Well, there are teachers who really love their job, they want to teach, they want to make the process interesting and exploratory. For such people, teaching is not so much a career as it is a whole life. It seems to me that if you like an occupation, then this is already a career in a sense. As for me, I would not want to teach at school, but I really would like to teach at the university, because there people already more or less know what they want, they understand that learning is important for themselves, and not for their parents.