

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 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 **avored** 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**.