

101 QUESTIONS TO  
ASK EACH OTHER  
BEFORE GETTING  
**MARRIED**

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# Preface

This guide consists of 100+ tried and tested hugely significant compatibility questions that everyone needs to ask their future spouse prior to getting married to them. One practical way of doing this is by way of what I call Marriage Meetings.

## **Introducing: Marriage Meetings**

A marriage meeting is where your potential partner and yourself, plus two additional people get together in order to learn about each other. The questions in this guide will be how you learn about each other without missing anything important. Just as a pilot has a checklist before takeoff you have a checklist before getting married. You don't have to understand how it works, just have faith that it does and should you prevail and still marry this person opposite you then I can promise you that you will have a very high chance of a successful marriage.

### **What's the purpose of a marriage meeting?**

Most relationships fail gradually. Over time, you learn new things about your partner, some of which are not to your liking and thus negativity and regret starts to build up, eventually leading to the failure of that relationship.

Marriage meetings allow you to get all the skeletons/demons out of the closet before any commitment is made.

### **Where should this meeting take place?**

The marriage meeting should take place somewhere public. It is absolutely important that you are not hidden away and there should be a safe and comfortable way for one party to leave should they choose to. Pick somewhere quiet like a coffee shop, a park etc, somewhere populated but not too busy as to cause distraction or inconvenience.

### **Who will attend?**

Both of you should bring one additional person. Let's call them your "check-mate"; the mate who keeps you in check! This is a responsible person who will have a level head and look out for your best interests. Choose someone who will not hesitate to scrutinise the other person, ask the questions maybe you will shy away from and ensure you are being the

real you. This person must be your senior though not necessarily age wise. This could be a colleague, a boss, a family friend, a senior family member or maybe someone of high standing from within your community. The person you bring must be someone you trust and you must listen to them when they bring up concerns. They must absolutely not be a yes man who will just go along with what you say otherwise they are useless to you.

### **Marriage Meetings are not dates**

These meetings are not to be confused with dates. During dates, one tends to woo and aim to please their potential partner in what I refer to the human equivalent of the mating dance. But in marriage meetings, one should set out to ask the questions so as to get a clear picture of their potential partner's stance in comparison to your own.

### **Why Marriage Meetings work and Conclusion**

I have done this personally and it has turned out quite awesome. To me, this is the practical method of getting married. Some may not agree with my methodology and to them, I wish good luck. I am not here to say things that people want to hear but to make you happy in the long term. I call it tough love.

The reason Marriage Meetings work is because you have no commitment with your potential spouse. In most modern relationship people want to ask these questions but they don't due to fear of rejection or a backlash.

If your potential spouse is hesitant to follow this guide and methodology then perhaps they're not sincere about you or marriage.

Should you come up with a question of your own that I have not covered, ask it and let me know too so I can add it to this guide.

Marriage is a life commitment and having a sudden crush is not good enough to sustain it; A marriage must go deeper than that.

### **How the marriage guide came into being**

Having researched on almost everything that has lead to the failure of millions of marriages from marriage counselors, family support organisations, therapists and researchers. I have for every scenario formed a question and topic to talk about. Discuss tough subject matters now so they don't later popup and surprise you.

### **What I want to avoid happening**

With this whole process I want you to avoid building faulty foundations. Most relationships you might know of have started with dating first. But dating is a flawed concept which is built upon lies and pretence. You lie to yourself and you lie about yourself.

And guess what? The person you are dating does the exact same thing to you. The net result is you both end up marrying the wrong person. Marriage is something to be enjoyed not endured. My Practical Marriage Guide is that one off bitter pill that you take and save yourself from taking thousands of headache pills later as you watch your marriage crumble in front of you.

### **Advice before moving onto the questions**

**When asking the questions:** I cannot dictate to you what answer is correct and what is incorrect. Judge each answer against your own principles, lifestyle, ethics, beliefs system and above everything your intuition.

**When answering the questions:** It is very likely that both of you will have a copy of this guide with you. So please for the sake of everything holy, your sanity and true happiness, be as honest as you can. No pretences. At this stage you have no reason to care what the other person thinks so don't fall for them until every last question has been discussed. Doing so will just make you engineer your answers to momentarily appease them and momentarily is not what I want this

relationship to be. I want it to last beyond life. I want you to find your soulmate.

# The Questions

## **1. What are your reasons for getting married?**

It's one of the most important decisions anyone will ever make. Not having the right motive can be fatal.

Why do you want to get married? Do you want to get married for the right reasons and what are the right reasons?

Reasons and their level of importance can vary from person to person. From being pushed by parents? Traditional expectations, to the ever ticking biological clocks & losing lustre in short term relationships.

There are endless reasons and only you can judge the other person's reasonings against your values.

Give this question around 5 minutes.

## **2. Ideally when would you like to get married?**

This can be a deal breaker. Maybe you want to get married now, and maybe they don't want to get married for another

5 years. Find this out before spending valuable time asking the other 99 questions. This is something you must be compatible with.

I recommend a time frame of 1 to 6 months. This is enough time to make appropriate arrangements for your marriage but not too long as to fall into the dating trap.

Remember, I am against dating. Your aim is not to try before you buy; you're going straight into marriage.

Watch out for someone who has reservations, excuses that will prolong things into years. No one is forcing anyone to get married to someone they don't know yet. But in principle agree that if the marriage meeting process goes well, then they will be able to commit to marriage within the ideal time frame I have stated above.

You should have as many marriage meetings as you need. There's no limit to the number of marriage meetings you can have.

### **3. Ask about: Previous Marriages and Relationships**

Find out how many previous relationships the person opposite you has been in. Find out how long they were in these relationships and the reasons they ended. This requires full disclosure so make sure you are honest when you're



asked too. You don't want any surprises from the past coming back to bite you.

Some people aren't comfortable if the other person has had too many previous relationships.

Just as some people can't stick to one career, there are others who can't stick to one relationship. Are you comfortable being the next in line, the next victim? Remember, we are here not for a short stint, but for the definite long haul.

Perhaps the reason they broke up is a reason why you might also break up in the future.

- What is the longest relationship you have ever had?
- What lessons did you learn from previous relationships?

#### **4. What Amount of Interaction is Acceptable With Past Partners?**

If the person opposite you has been in a previous relationship it is important to find out how involved they were and determine how comfortable you are with this.

Maybe they were just dating, perhaps they were married, and maybe they now have kids also to look after. Only you

know what you're comfortable with. Remember, full disclosure here. You must be honest with them also.

Think about the following...

- What if they had children together?
- What if it was parents evening at school or parents and children activity day?
- How should they interact with each other during the time they get to see their children?
- Should they be allowed to exchange jokes? Make each other laugh?

Talk about your true feelings and discuss boundaries NOW.

### **5. Do you want children? If yes, how many?**

I know it may sound like you are jumping into this question too quickly but it's going to come up at some point so it's important to get it over and done with.

It is no good if you want children within the next year and they don't want children for another five. Maybe they aren't even sure if they want children at all. Are you okay with this?

You both need to be honest. Some, perhaps for medical reasons, are not able to have children. Possibly, you yourself, aren't able to sire children and if you know this for a fact, you need to inform them right away.

It could be you already have children and/or they already have children. So in this case are you prepared to take on this responsibility. Be honest with yourself, there is no shame in not wanting to bring up another person's child. It is a huge responsibility so you must be fully willing and able.

## **6. When do you want to have children?**

People live in different ways, different lifestyles, have different goals and aims in life. Somebody may want to start a family immediately after getting married. Maybe because their biological clock is ticking fast and they're pressed for time.

You, on the other hand, might be planning on waiting for four or five years. So this question is very critical. There might be an age gap between you and your potential partner. Perhaps they had a previous family and they are adults now. It is important to enquire if they are willing to go through the whole experience again.

Can they take the early mornings and the sleepless nights again? Some may not want to take a break from their careers since a newborn may hinder their progress.

So discuss this before wasting each other's time in something that's fruitless.

## **7. Let's talk birth control.**

It may seem uncomfortable to discuss now and you may want to revisit this question later. But when you're in a marriage this is very important and can have implications you may not be prepared for.

Discuss the following:

- Would we be practicing birth control?
- If so, for how long?
- Who will be responsible for birth control?
- What would we do if there were an unplanned pregnancy?
- Would you ever consider getting a male/female vasectomy?
- What will be the method of birth control?

What if one won't practice birth control, for religious or medical reasons. What if your partner won't be intimate with you unless there is a form of birth control in place, but you refuse any type of birth control. Can you deal with this?

## **8. Talk about raising children.**

In some cultures it might be a given that the mother will take the lead in raising and nurturing the children and the father will be the provider & disciplinarian.

For some it is a big deal to know what exact role they will play and what is expected of them. Some fathers are hands on whilst others may see it demeaning. Attitudes vary according to cultures and their own upbringing.

If it is important to you who changes the nappies and helps with the homework etc. Now is your opportunity to speak or forever hold your peace.

## **9. How will you be disciplining the children?**

It has been proven again and again that disciplining children is really important for their successful upbringing.

I want you to discuss, who is more comfortable in taking the lead and for the other partner to support the decisions made.

Also important is to discuss and agree on how the children will be disciplined. Do you believe in spanking children? Putting children in time-out? Standing them in the corner or Taking away privileges, etc.

## **10. What religion will our children follow?**

Only applicable if you both subscribe to different religions and plan on having children. I need you to assess and discuss;

- How your religious beliefs affect your family?
- Whose religion are the children going to follow?
- Are they going to have a bit of both faiths?
- What if by doing so there's a conflict in belief structure?

In the case of a Hindu and a Muslim, there definitely is a conflict in beliefs since one follows a multitude of Gods while the other only one God; one follows idols, the other something that you can't physically touch or feel the presence of.

Such situations are not ideal; what kind of family is divided on religious basis? If following your religion is important to you, I would highly recommend you don't take chances with this or you will regret later.

## **11. Would you feel unfulfilled if you were unable to have children?**

About 6-10% of the world, depending on region cannot become parents due to infertility.

It is very important that you both discuss this unfortunate situation as a team. Ensure your expectations and action plans are known to each other. A lot of marriages die a lonely lingering death because no one want to sit down and tackle this heartbreaking situation head on.

**Sub Questions:**

- How would you react?
- Would the relationship end?
- Would you seek medical help?
- Would you consider polygamy?
- Would you consider adopting?

**12. How would you react if you had a seriously ill or disabled child?**

Disability is a fact of life which I wish upon no one. Being a parent of a disabled child can be really stressful especially when one feels like they are the only one taking care of the child.

Below are some of the questions you should definitely ask and talk about:

- What would you do if you found out during early stages of pregnancy?
- What is your view of abortion?
- Should a husband have an equal say in whether his wife has an abortion?

- Have you ever had an abortion?
- God forbid you had a disabled child, would one parent leave employment to take care of the child?
- Would you be accepting of outsourcing care to a specialist centre or facility?

### **13. Do you have any existing children?**

I want you to talk about the situation at hand openly without the fear of being labeled as a monster or fiend of a kind.

If either of you are bringing children into the relationship. The following questions need to be addressed for the well being of the relationship and children. Remember they will also become stakeholders in this relationship and might have a lot of mistrust/broken family issues etc. All they want is love and stability.

- How old are they?
- Whom do they live with?
- How often do you see them?
- How come you are no longer with their mother/father?
- What is your relationship with them?
- How do you see your relationship with them in the future?
- Do you pay alimony or child support?
- Have you ever failed to pay child support? If so, why?
- Do any of the children have special needs?



#### **14. How we'll manage relationship with children from a previous relationship?**

If either of you have children already whether biological or otherwise. You need to get each others opinion and thoughts about the situation.

Raising a child who's not your own flesh and blood can be a challenge and it is of utmost importance that you discuss this in great detail.

Points to discuss:

- How do the children feel about this relationship?
- Will your partner treat them as their own?
- Will your partner be able to create a bond?
- If both of you have children, can they get along?
- What are the logistics of these children, remember they need to be housed, fed, clothed, educated etc.
- Should only birth parents be in charge of making decisions for their own children?
- What authority do step-parents have over your children?

#### **15. How do you spend your free time?**

I encourage you to expand upon this question. The more you talk, the more you will learn. It could be that you don't agree with the other person's hobbies or vice versa, or maybe you

will find the person's passion for something an attractive quality and make you like them.

If you share the same hobbies then it will help in spicing up your marriage. If not, you'll definitely need to give each other some time. Hobbies are meant to help people relax. Some go to the gym, some take piano lessons, whilst others choose to spend time with their friends, etc.

Also be sure to confirm if you and your partner would wish to be together during your spare time. Sometimes people like to be alone or with their friends and this isn't always a bad thing, but if you aren't in agreement this will cause doubt and conflict within your marriage.

Points to ponder:

- Do you share the same interests?
- Will you still be able to continue with your hobby when married?
- Will their hobby affect the family's finances?

#### **16. Do you believe in any of the following?**

- Horoscopes
- Ghosts
- Fortune Tellers
- Spiritual Healing
- Life after death

- End of the world planning
- Aliens

As funny as this sounds, imagine if you consider everything to be going well and get married without asking this question. Then one day your partner turns around and claims to have been abducted by aliens or is preparing a doomsday bunker in the back garden? Would this be a deal breaker?

People have very different views regarding ghosts, mediums and psychics etc. To the point where they can offend or get offended by others who disagree with them. It's best to know the answers to this now just on the chance that it may cause a crack down the road in your marriage.

### **17. Do you have any long term goals or ambitions?**

Many of us have life goals or ambitions and they can often play a significant role in a person's life. At times, we need people's support and encouragement to keep reaching for something better. It's really depressing if your spouse doesn't believe in your dreams and ambitions.

Talk about each other's goals and ambitions in depth. What are they and why do you have them. Can you be your spouse's number one fan? If you support them in whatever they do you'll get immense love in return.

## **18. Do you like travelling?**

People travel for many different reasons and there are many types of traveling to consider. Some people take up seasonal contracts abroad, and others take frequent short inter-city trips. Maybe you love package holidays, or maybe you hate them. So this is a valid question to find out each others preferences.

- How often do you both travel out of the country?
- How are finances affected by travelling?
- Have you both considered your family life? Especially if you're away often.
- What is your motivation for traveling? Leisure, Exploration, Work, Education, etc.
- If you don't like travelling would you mind if your partner does it alone?

## **19. Where have you travelled & Why?**

Get to know of the travel experiences your partner has been through and talk about yours also. When traveling to a new place there are unique experiences that one gets and this sometimes can change a person.

Find out what type of traveller the person is. Did they go just to party? Was it a lads weekend away? Maybe it was a cultural exploration. You can find a lot about a person's character by simply talking about where someone has been and their reasons for going.

Try to ask each other the following:

- Where did you travel, with whom and why?
- Would you travel back to where you have been and why?
- What did you learn from it? Did it change you as a person?

## **20. Talk about your education?**

With this question you want to find out about each other's education level and your attitudes towards different types of education. Find out if they were home schooled or if they went to a public or private school and how that moulded them into the person they are today.

People's opinions on education can differ hugely so talk about your own views and debate. Think to yourself if you can accept the other person's outlook even if it differs from yours.

Try talk about

- What is your current education level?
- Do you plan any further education?
- If you do how much time and resources will this take up and will it cause a problem in your marriage?

- How do you feel about your education and that of the person opposite you?
- Do you agree with each others view on education?
- What priority is education in your life?
- How would you educate your children? And to what level. Public or private school etc.

## **21. Are you an academic or a practical person?**

The main difference between an academic and a practical person is their approach to life.

The academic takes on a more theoretical way of handling situations whilst a practical person tends to take on a more hands on approach.

So think about what type of person you are.

Differences between you both isn't necessarily a bad thing but be aware of it. Someone who is practical is more likely to be okay with a similar practical person than an academic, similarly someone academic may prefer another academic.

Talk it out and judge this question's importance to you. How will your differences affect the relationship?

## **22. What core characteristics are important to you in a spouse? What are you looking for?**

Choosing a life partner is the most important decision you will ever make and you have to find a person whom you can put up with and who, more importantly, can put up with you. This question is important because you get to know your own expectations and also share them with your potential life mate.

Considering the many things people look for in a partner, different people will have a different idea of what's important. Some may be drawn to physical characteristics, while for others it may boil down to more specific traits like honesty, openness, supportiveness, creativity etc.

It is worth thinking about

- The type of spouse you want? A housewife? A househusband? A go getter... etc.
- Should the husband be a manly man? The wife a girl girl? etc.

Everyone should be happy being who they are but you must be suitable for each other. And of course don't forget to talk about what compromises are you each willing to make for each other. This is important.

That said, don't agree to make too many compromises as character based changes are often ingrained into us so

deeply that most people rather forgo the relationship than to change character, so don't fool yourself.

### **23. What is unacceptable from a spouse?**

This question is meant to establish the ultimate deal breakers in your marriage. It will provide a basis on which you and your partner can identify possible problems that may lead to breakdowns in your marriage. It is very important to find out red flags and if possible, solutions to them.

In this discussion talk about:

- If they have had any addictions - gambling or substances.
- What has made other relationships fail.
- Boundaries with people of the opposite sex. What is acceptable. What isn't.
- What is considered as betrayal.

It is worth going into detail, as what you may find insignificant others may hold a lot of value to. For example, is what you are wearing acceptable to your spouse? (more detail in q25) What about the relationship between friends, do you consider it too intense or flirtatious? Work out any issues now before you become invested in a relationship that isn't making you happy.



## **24. Day to Day Appearances Routine**

This question seeks to find out each other's grooming habits. You both know that despite my best efforts to put an end to pre-marriage dating. You both have still dressed to impress. Extra effort was made today, effort that is impossible to upkeep everyday and you will eventually see each other in more relaxed, not so bothered, hectic, off guard and worn out situations.

So this question may seem very personal and irrelevant to you now but trust me in a marriage it will have an impact. Do you or they follow any fashion trends that may be annoying, or do you not care enough which can be equally annoying sometimes? It is important to find out their perspective on this matter.

Talk about your daily routines. Perhaps if a woman was spending too much money and taking too long every morning to get dress this would bother the man. Or perhaps if the man didn't clean enough this would bother the woman.

Try also talk about

- How much money do you spend on clothing and beauty products each month?
- Have you had any cosmetic procedures? Do you want any?
- How often do you wash yourself and your clothes?
- Do you shave?
- How important is it to always look your best?

- What are your opinions on appearance changing with age?

## **25. How Do You Want Your Spouse To Dress?**

Dressing is something we do on a daily basis and discussing this issues is one of the most practical of all questions.

This is an important issue because when dressing the way they do, they will not only be representing themselves but also representing you.

Discuss with each other how you would like the other person to dress on a daily basis and on specific occasions. Such as nights out, work, beaches etc. People adhere to different modesty standards so talk it out and decide what you both agree and disagree on.

These concerns go both ways so be sure to both talk in depth. Try talking about...

- What moral standards do you have?
- What dress code would you deem appropriate for parties, beaches etc.
- Does he or she enjoy the extra attention that skimpy outfits bring?
- As a husband would you be ok with your wife showing cleavage? If so, how much?
- Should he grow a beard or be clean shaven? Should she shave her legs or be natural?

- Would either of you agree to change the way you dress to appease the other or alleviate their jealousy/anxiety? Would you be comfortable with this?

## **26. Does popular culture have an important impact on your life?**

Popular culture brings rise to unrealistic expectations and it will be important to clear the air about on whether it has an impact on any of you.

- What inspirations do you each get from popular culture?
- Who are your role models?
- How would each of you handle it if one of you got famous?
- What celebrities do you have a crush on and why?
- Do either of you care to keep up and follow trends?

## **27. Talk about body weight and its meaning to you**

Here you get to discuss how comfortable you are with each other's weight and whether or not it will affect your relationship. This can be very uncomfortable to talk about but try to be objective and honest, as well as sensitive.

Research does show that over 60% of people in a comfortable and stable relationship are likely to gain weight. So it's not always a bad thing. However, when is it too much? In some cases it may be that there is weight loss and this will have a different but equally significant impact on your relationship. Be honest. Some people like to keep their partners plump because of their own insecurities.

It is also possible someone's weight control measures are too extreme for one of you to handle. Maybe you don't want to be judged every time you open a packet of potato crisps!

So talk about your thought on weight gain/loss in depth as differences on this issue can be devastating to a marriage. Outlining your views clearly.

## **28. Do you have friends of the opposite sex?**

Arguments can erupt between couples after getting married because they were too shy or scared to talk about this issue. It is natural to have friends outside of your relationship and some of them may be of the opposite sex.

This is an important question to ask. It can clear the air about any anxieties that arise from the thought of your husband or wife having close friends of the opposite gender.

- Are any of those friends their exes?
- Are any of them best friends?

- Are they willing to let go?
- What role do they play in your life?
- Throw in the mix colleagues too. Nothing is barred from the conversation.

## **29. How much time do you want to spend with friends?**

Friendships are very healthy for a marriage, you don't want to be stuck in each others face all the time, as the old saying goes, distance makes the hearts fonder... fondness varies with distance..

This question will enable you both to have a healthy discussion about the friendships you have currently and how they are going to affect your relationship.

It is however, important to realize that you will have different priorities now that you are getting into married life and the tricky part will be to maintain the balance.

It is also important to acknowledge that someone new has a right to your time and it is important that you give them sufficient attention to be able to have a successful marriage.

Some questions that can be discussed are:

- How many nights per week do you spend with friends?
- What activities do you do with friends?

- How many of them are in relationships? Could we go on double dates?
- Would they be comfortable to tag you along?
- Ask yourself, would you be ok if your spouses friends tagged along with you two?

**30. Would it make you uncomfortable if your partner went to the following, with or without you.**

This question is tackling your trust, insecurity or anxiety issues. Discuss some of the activities that you might not be comfortable for them to do on their own. Also set boundaries and safeguards for the activities that may be termed as compromising situations.

Would you be uncomfortable if your partner went to;

- Bars or nightclubs.
- A casino.
- Strip clubs, male or female.
- The beach. This could be a nudist or regular beach.
- Concerts or live events.

**31. Role and responsibilities of each spouse**

The roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives are ever changing. Often dictated by culture, need and innate nature.

In my culture, men are often the breadwinners while women are the nurturers of the family. That said, my wife comes from an entirely different culture than mine and yet we both adhere to an arrangement because we talked about it from the onset.

Think about your norms, culture, needs and nature. I include “nature” in the mix because I believe we perform best when we stay in tune with our innate nature.

Discuss the different roles and responsibilities that each of you should play and are comfortable with. Keep it limited to major deal breakers only. For almost everything else in a relationship there is a question in this guide.

- Are there any responsibilities you believe to be the sole domain of the husband or wife? Why do you believe this?
- Do you expect your husband/wife to be the main earner, is he/she ok with this?
- Who will be the main nurturer and home keeper?
- Do you expect that you are both equally responsible? What is your idea of a fair division of roles and responsibilities?
- What do you expect the other to do, and if they don't do it, are they right for you?
- If you differ, is there a compromise? If not then walk away.

## **32. Gender Conforming questions**

I am a firm believer that gender is no barrier to any achievement that we set our mind to. But above that I believe that we as humans are more content when we conform to gender stereotypes ie. our innate nature.

A gender conforming woman is one that is behaving and appearing in ways that are considered feminine. Similarly for a gender conforming man, his being macho, rough and in control of his emotions.

Some might call it controversial, I don't care. All I want you to do is seek out each others opinion on gender conformity, and your attitudes towards it. Do you conform to gender stereotypes? Is conforming to gender stereotypes a good or bad thing? Why?

### **Men:**

- Do you have a tool collection? Are you good at DIY?
- Can you fix things? Such as doors, cars, washing machine, replace fuses, etc.
- Can you fight? Defend yourself/lady/family?
- Know your crankshaft from your gear shift? Navigate? Lead?

### **Women**

- Can you cook? Decorate?
- Look after babies?
- Multi task? Manage appointments?



- Whilst looking no less than a beauty queen?

### **33. How will you make decisions when you are married? Small and big.**

We've all heard the saying that one ship cannot have two captains. This carries some merit but then a marriage is not a ship, is it? A marriage should NOT be run as a democracy either.

Generally speaking men are leaders and should take council from their wife on the decisions they make. The wife should support his decisions as they are in the best interest of the marriage.

As long as the man is just, **always** taking counsel from his wife and is generous with decision making, everything will run well. But when it's crunch time, he must take control and make the decisions that best steers his marriage/family to success, even if it is not of popular opinion he must be strong and she must be supportive.

This is my view and it is by no means set in stone. If either of you think otherwise now is the time to talk it out. Consider the following points between you both:

- Do you feel the need to either be in control or be taken care of? One person should always be more dominant than the other.

- How important is equality in a marriage? Define what you mean by equality. Remember that you're both equally important but play different roles.
- Do you believe that roles in your family should be filled by the person best equipped for the job, even if it is an unconventional arrangement? Such as the man taking care of the home.

### **34. What are grounds for a divorce?**

Divorce is often not what people speak about before getting married. But this is the "Practical Marriage Guide" after all and no matter how unconventional or uncomfortable it seems, we are talking about it. To ensure we too don't become part of the 50% divorce rate statistics.

When addressing this question, you and your potential partner must set boundaries on what is permissible in the marriage and discuss what could ultimately bring about divorce.

Think about who owns what, who has custody of any possible children, who will move out of the family home. There is much to think about. Therefore it is wise to ensure that you and your future husband or wife are on the same page when it comes to divorce.

Ideally, matching answers to this question will be vital in

helping you both have a long and happy marriage.

People I love you, I wish divorce on no family and as uncomfortable as this questions is... please don't skip it.

### **35. Would you go to marital counselling if your marriage was in trouble?**

The main aim of this question is to know the type of person you are dealing with. Will, you work together or are you doomed when conflict arises?

You might be in favour of seeking help from a marriage counselor if you're both experiencing problems.

But you find out that your spouse is stubborn, unwilling to admit there is an issue, or feels that the problems within the marriage are private and not for other people to comment. Or maybe you are the one feeling like this?

So while things are good, get on the same page because it is likely that at some point in your marriage problems will arise and should they get too bad you must be able to deal with them together.

Decide now who will be your counselor, it does not necessarily have to be a paid professional. I recommend designating 2-3 respectable characters from within each of your families or communities. People who are senior, wise,

patient and trustworthy to representative and mediate conflicts between you. This may be an uncle/aunt, your teacher, a community leader etc.

### **36. Would you let your spouse stay away overnight?**

This is a practical question which seeks to establish how comfortable you are with your partner staying out overnight. I would not allow my wife to stay away from our marital home expect when she's visiting her immediate family and she is okay with this. As unfair as it may seem, I need to stay out on certain occasions such as during business trips and again thankfully she is okay with this also.

There are some people who do not consider this an issue as long as the spouse has duly communicated their whereabouts and both partners are trusting, however others simply cannot condone the action. I am a possessive/jealous man and this would be a deal breaker for me. What are you?

I want you both to decide what works for your right now. What is acceptable to you? Do not be afraid of rejection or judgement... you owe this person nothing.

### **37. Would you consider being in a polygamous marriage?**

If you don't know what it is then it is time to look it up as this is not something you want to be surprised with later down

the line. Both men and women need to ask each other and themselves - Is polygamy for you? Is polygamy for me?

Men - if you want to have multiple wives, now is the time to speak up. It's a lot more awkward if you reveal this desire later when you have a family in motion. Even if you will consider it and it's not a solid thought blurt it out now.

Women - do you want to have a polygamous husband? If you're completely against this then say now but I ask you take a moment to consider it properly and not in the moment. Try to think of at least three positives and three negatives.

**38. How would your family feel about you being in a polygamous marriage?**

This questions assumes that you both are ok with polygamy and will consider it down the road. If you both said no to the question prior then simply skip over this.

Marriage, be it monogamous or polygamous is a family affair and if you can proceed with the blessings of your family then your life will be much easier. Having support of your family may actually be the difference between monogamy and polygamy.

If you don't have your families blessings, can you do it alone without them? Will your family learn to understand or support you in time?

Maybe you just need to fully explain it to them so they understand. Normally animosity comes out of ignorance. Educate them. Let them know that it is an informed logical decision in your life and that you haven't just sold your soul to the devil.

### **39. What would you do if you had only 10 days to live?**

This may seem far fetched but it is an important explorative question.

The answer you receive will most definitely shed light to their character and will go a long way in shaping your perspective about them. From their answer you can get to know more about their personality, their values, and mindset.

The answer you receive could either put you off or attract you to them even more.

For example what if they said they would go on a killing rampage? What type of person are they really? What if they went all repentant and turned to God?

### **40. Introvert or Extrovert (Shy or Confident)?**

Introverts are normally shy, reserved people whereas extroverts are more outgoing and chatty. Usually these differences in personality compliment each other however this is not always the case.

Having differences from your partner can help you grow both individually and as a couple, for instance, if you are the introvert and your potential partner is an extrovert, spending time with them may actually help you get out of your comfort zone.

In a situation where you are both introverted or extroverted you can discuss this with each other and find out ways in which you can co-exist.

Find out:

- Are you an introvert/extrovert?
- How does this affect you in a negative or positive way?

#### **41. Do you have a sense of humor?**

A couple that laughs together loves together, and it is important to find out now whether the other person has a sense of humor.

Depending on the scenario at hand, I can be both a serious and intellectual person or a light hearted individual, able to crack a joke and bring laughter. But some people lack this ability, I refer to them as binary - they are one or the other; overly serious or downright ecstatic, silly and full of jokes.

It is very important to gauge your humor compatibility now, it might turn out to be a deal breaker if you are both on opposite ends of the humor scale as eventually you'll start to annoy each other.

Ask the other to tell you a joke or two from memory.

#### **42. What kind of sports do they like?**

This is a straightforward question that seeks to know of any sports activities that your spouse may be into. You want to assess their commitment to any type of sports. More specifically, what amount of time they commit to it. If someone is religiously obsessed with a sport it can heavily influence their lifestyle.

If your potential spouse is into a particular sport that you are not into, find out why they love that sport before saying/deciding you hate it. Participation and training for the same sports can be a great way of building your relationship.

If you establish boundaries now it can help prevent conflict in the future.



Discuss the following:

- Are you a fanatic of any particular sport/team?
- If your favorite team are playing an important game but there is a family function to attend, what takes priority?
- How much does your participation in this sport cost?

### **43. Medical Conditions**

Full disclosure about both long and short term medical conditions is crucially important and only fair to the other person.

No matter what the medical condition, visible or not, you should disclose it now. Perhaps you are susceptible to a certain disease due to your family history. It is important that you let your potential partner know about it, as they may not be willing to assume a caretaker role in the future. If you need care you don't want to be with someone unreliable who may abandon you.

Caring is a very difficult challenge for someone. So don't be ashamed to admit you can't do it if that's how you feel.

For example if one of you was a diabetic. Would the other be okay with giving you an insulin injection daily? If one of you suffered a mental illness, will the other be supportive or destructive to it?

Some questions to ask are:

- How did they get the condition?
- Are they taking any medication?
- How much do they spend on medication?
- Any implications on the condition, can it be transmitted? If yes how?
- Will they require any expensive equipment? For example wheelchairs or stairlifts.
- Is it possible that their physical condition will deteriorate?

Trust me, the presence or absence of a disease may affect your marriage so you have to ask this question. You cannot afford to skip it. There are no two ways about it.

#### **44. How is your mental health?**

This can be uncomfortable to talk about, especially if you have struggled with mental issues, but this is something that will have a huge effect on your marriage so it is really important you are honest now.

So talk about your current and past mental health issues.

It is likely that if one of you suffers any mental health issues you will need the support of your spouse. So if you suffer and haven't made them aware then you can't blame them if

down the road you find they are unable or unwilling to support you.

Yes I know this is a sensitive issue. But it needs to be talked about now.

**45. Are there genetic diseases in your family or a history of cancer, heart disease, or chronic illness?**

This is linked to question 44. If you have a family history of any specific medical condition, now is your chance to talk about it. This isn't to say if the person sat opposite you has a family history of cancer you should run a mile but it is something you should be aware of. That way you can push each other to live a healthier lifestyle and get tested sooner etc.

**46. Do you have any allergies?**

There are many types of allergies including food, drug, dust, pets, etc. So this question is entirely practical.

What if one of you has a hairy pet and the other is allergic - what is the solution? Get a full list of each other's allergies and talk about living with them and be practical.

Hopefully like me and most people you both won't have any issues with anything.

#### **47. Do you have any phobias?**

This is again to find out the practicality of living with someone. A lot of people have phobias and to individuals that don't have them, it can be hard to understand or be supportive of them. Phobia based situations vary from air travel, spiders, closed spaces, blood, heights, etc, and they may become a problem if it interferes with daily life.

What pressures will these add to your relationship?

#### **48. Do you have health insurance? Dental insurance?**

Use this question to find out if they have health insurance, or how they cater for their medical bills. This might not apply to some people who have state funded health care as an option but to everyone else, ask away. Even in countries like the UK with free health care residents still have to pay for dental and eye care if they are not on welfare.

Medical bills can cripple any family's good financial standing. If they don't have medical insurance when they should have it, find out why. This is something that will affect your family life and marriage in the long term as you never know what may happen.

#### **49. Use of social media.**

The use of social media is so integrated into our lives that we cannot overlook this as a future cause of marital problems. From this question, you want to find out your partner's social media practices. Knowing a person's use of social media can reveal a lot about them.

Use of social media can potentially affect your marriage. How frequent are you using social media and how much do you share on it? Also, what are your reasons for being on it? Some people are addicted to social media whilst others are scared of it.

Talk about social media boundaries that must be adhered to. What is an acceptable amount of time to spend on social media, who each of you can follow and communicate with and what is not acceptable to share.

Liberal use of social media is the leading cause of infidelity and divorce. So take this question seriously.

#### **Question:**

- How many social media types are you an active user of? E.g. Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Twitter etc
- How many hours a day do you spend on social media?

- Are we allowed to follow the opposite gender... this is an important question? Be they celebrities or people we know in real life outside of immediate family.

Advice: You must both be subscribed/following each other on every type of social media you use. In saying this I don't care what people think, I just want to be realistic and ensure you have a long lasting happy marriage.

## **50. What is your Favorite Season?**

This question is more just so you can have a break after the interrogation of all the above questions. This allows you to be a little less formal and helps to lighten the mood.

So ask each other what your favourite season is and why.

I'm lucky enough to have lived in several countries mainly England, Dubai and Pakistan. In England we have two seasons: cold and colder. In Dubai we have hot and hotter, whilst in Pakistan we have every known season plus a monsoon mixed in for added joy. I don't have any preference because I believe all seasons present both positives and negatives.

What are your thoughts and preferences?

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

**Author Comment:** *Well done for reaching this far, you're doing great, but please don't ruin it by losing your composure and giving away anything... especially your heart.*

*Continue asking each question as seriously as you can. Processing each answer against your own natural standing/character/nature.*

*See you at the finish line :)*

~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

## **51. Are you a Morning or Evening Person?**

Naturally people tend to be awake during the day and sleep at night. But thanks to shift work, the lines of a working day have become very blurred. My wife is a morning person, she goes to bed early and wakes up early. I on the other hand am an evening person. I get up late and work even later. So sometimes it may seem like we are passing ships in the night and it can be difficult to find time to be together. This is a challenge many people face and so you should discuss this now. It works for me but it won't work for everyone.

If you are both morning or evening people then great, but if you are opposites then think about, if you were married right now how would it work and when you would find time to be together.

## **52. Time spent on your phone for professional reasons.**

This is quite different from the social media question in that some people spend a lot of time on their phones for purely work related reasons. The time spent on the phone may affect your relationship in many ways. When someone stops to take a call it makes the other feel less important. You therefore need to set boundaries and balance things between your relationship and work.

Being on the phone isn't necessarily a bad thing especially if you are on it for the progress of your work or career. Some people have to leave their phones on because of the nature of their jobs e.g. doctors, rescue response supervisors etc. Just be sure to discuss in detail the importance of needing your phone as to ease the anxiety of your spouse.

## **53. Are you an organized and clean person, or more of a careless, messy slob?**

As you are going to be living together this question couldn't be any more practical. Different people have different organizational structures and it is very vital to find out the type of person that your future spouse is and whether or not you are compatible.

Are you a clean freak or overly messy? Or maybe something in between.



Some people are okay with being messy - such as leaving clothes on the floor, pots in the sink; whilst this will drive others crazy.

#### **54. What are your favorite TV shows and movies?**

With this question you will find out your spouse's favorite show and maybe even strike some common ground - hopefully.

Film and TV may increase the bond of a couple or break it. Think about...

- Do you binge watch tv or casually watch episodes as they come out?
- How much time do you spend watching tv shows a week?
- Are you more into documentaries, dramas or reality tv?
- What is your favourite type of genre when it comes to movies?

It sounds trivial but over a lifetime this can make a difference. Maybe the idea of watching football every evening is something that will wind you up. Maybe you're okay with it. Perhaps cheap reality tv makes your skin crawl whereas your spouse lives for it.

If you both are into the same tv shows it can become a tradition to wait for each other to watch the next episode and then it can give you much more to talk about.

### **55. What are your worst features?**

All though it seems that by answering this, you are shooting yourself in the foot, you need to be very objective and honest about this. What is it that you dislike about yourself, it could be a character trait or a habit that you can't quite shake off or maybe a physical feature that you are not comfortable with. Whatever the case this question will allow you both to have a good discussion about your insecurities and a way forward on how you can deal with them. Who knows, probably it isn't as bad as you think it is and you may just be blowing things out of proportion.

### **56. Can you take constructive advice from someone?**

Now this question is actually an extension of the previous question. If the other had an actual solution to fixing this bad feature of yours, would you listen to them? Would you take their advice and adhere to their remedy? Would it somehow put you on the defensive?

This question gives you insight into whether or not the person values personal development enough to assess and accept objective criticism. We all have flaws but some people are always defensive when their flaws are pointed out and reluctant to accept help even if the advice is beneficial.

Think: Do you really want to live with someone who seeks attention through their problems rather than actually finding a solution to them. What if one of their negative habits was affecting your relationship in a big way but they were unwilling to acknowledge and work on it.

### **57. Do you have a goal/dream?**

Everyone of us has a dream or life goal in one form or another.

In finding a life long spouse you need to find your biggest fan & supporter. If they cannot be there to encourage or support you, then run away now. Because there will be times when you will feel like quitting and what better person can there be to lift your spirits than your spouse?

At times, your dreams may involve hurdles that can affect the wellbeing of the family. This doesn't mean that you need to give up on your dreams, but you do need to discuss with each other how you plan to achieve things.

- What is their goal or dream?
- Why are they on this journey?
- At what stage are they with their goals?
- How can you help each other achieve your goals?
- What timelines have you both set?

- Will the pursuance of a goal have a toll on the normal running of the family?

### **58. What is something that makes you extremely angry?**

Different people have different things that make them angry. For some it's politics, betrayal from a friend, or maybe a favorite sports team losing. Find out what angers them the most and find out what actions they take when they are extremely angry.

Importantly, inquire about the extent of their anger and the frequency of it. Some people get physical whilst angry and others find a way to contain their emotion. You don't want to marry someone who is angry all the time for no reason, this will only bring down the joy in your marriage.

### **59. When in an argument, do you tend to withdraw or become more aggressive?**

When arguing, people's reactions vary. So this question aims to find out how they carry out their arguments, do they withdraw and let the other person win or do they become aggressive and have a tendency to want to win, even if they're wrong.

Do remember that we all argue but it is important to give each the room and time to explain their point of view before deeming yours as the correct one. Maybe one of you will slam a door and leave the house but you must always come back and make up afterwards.

It is also very possible that one argument has 2 correct point of views. Are you someone that will recognize & accept this?

- Do you fight dirty?
- Would you back down momentarily to keep peace.

## **60. What are things that make you very happy?**

Knowing what makes someone happy can benefit you both. You could use the knowledge gained to appease them when they are angry, surprise them during special occasions and even as a way to spice things up. If travelling and experiencing different cultures makes them happy, a getaway after experiencing hardship can help them to feel renewed as a person and appreciate you for remembering.

So find out what makes the other person truly happy.. The answer shouldn't be something mundane or regular like watching a film or tv show. This answer must come from a deep place inside and you should share your side too.

Look out for that twinkle in their eye when they talk. Seeing a sparkle will show you, whether they are telling the truth or

just making stuff up. As with every question. I want the real you to come out and give honest answers.

### **61. What makes you the most insecure?**

Everyone has insecurities that we've adopted over time and these are usually based on some undesirable circumstances from our past or criticism that is directed toward us. As people, we tend to internalize the insecurities and silently carry it with us at all times.

It is important to remember that your potential partner's insecurities may be different to yours. No matter what is discussed you should not ridicule one another, instead support each other. One of you might have insecurities stemming from failure or great expectation from family or friends, whilst the other may have insecurities to do with their body confidence or self worth.

Do not be afraid of opening up, be completely honest with yourself and your potential future spouse. These insecurities will become shared insecurities one day that you both will have to work on together.

### **62. Do you get stressed out easily?**

We all have something that stresses us out from time to time, it could be pressure from work or a task that seems impossible from our perspective. People have different ways of reacting to stress, a situation that feels stressful to one person may be a motivating challenge to someone else.

Your aim is to find out the cause of stress, how it would affect you and whether there is something you can do to destress them. Talk about:

- What are things that stress you out the most?
- How do you handle the stress?
- Do you take steps to prevent the stress from occurring again?
- How often do they find themselves stressed?

### **63. What are your views on keeping pets?**

Almost one in six of us now have a pet of one kind or another. These pets come with a huge responsibility of time and money.

For me, we don't have any pets that live inside the house. Goldfish always die after the honeymoon period and everything else is hairy and leaves a mess.

We have a lot of animals on our farm. Thousands of fish, chickens, rabbits, ducks etc. We also have 2 guard dogs. and

guard dog's are all they are... we play with them, interact with them all outdoors.

Yes my family want a cat which can live indoors with us but it isn't happening. Also, I wouldn't marry anyone with animals living indoors. That's me being open and honest. So I want you to not be shy and let your true feelings out. Can you live with pets? Snakes? Aggressive breeds of dogs? Pets that cost a lot and are expensive to maintain like monkeys or macaws.

- Do you have any pets? If so discuss them.
- Would you guys be having any?
- What is allowed and what is not etc?
- How will it affect finances and your overall family?
- Is your attitude "Love me, love my pet?"
- Do you consider pets members of your family?
- Do you have an allergy to fur or simply don't like them?
- If we own pets in the future would they live inside or outside of the family home?

#### **64. Do you enjoy inviting people over for entertainment?**

Different people enjoy different levels of entertaining, some people rarely invite friends and family over, whilst some throw wild parties every weekend.



As most people do enjoying some form of social gathering, it's worth finding out what kind of socialising they prefer or oppose to.

- Are they ok to attend parties and family gatherings?
- How comfortable are they with having people over for entertainment?
- Ask about their hosting habits?
- Who are they comfortable inviting?
- How often do they hold such events?
- Are they comfortable with people sleeping over?
- How will the events be financed?

### **65. Your top 3 Peeves (Don't Want).**

What are the three things that annoy you most about people? Characteristics that you don't want in a future spouse. It could be something as simple as leaving the toilet seat up or a person who when reading a book reads out loud.

I for one, would not marry someone who isn't ambitious and is devoid of an iota of self-drive. Or someone who doesn't keep their house clean and tidy. And i'd especially not marry someone who is unfamiliar with personal hygiene of the kind that involves at minimum a daily shower.

Discussing the top three will allow you to get to know a lot more about your partner and rate your suitability. Judge their temperaments, character and make an objective

assessment of whether or not you can be with them. Who knows, you might even have the same peeves.

**66. What are your greatest strengths?**

Mine are logistics, ability to plow on, I don't complain and I'm a realist. Now talk about your own.

This question allows you to find out the other person's greatest strengths in their own words.

While discussing these you might discover that one person's strengths complements the others weakness and in helping each other build and grow your weaknesses, you get a lot of bonding opportunities.

**67. Are you open minded? Do you have any prejudice against any particular people?**

A lot of people consider themselves open minded because they don't openly judge or give an opinion on a certain ethnicity, religion, or group of people but it does not necessarily mean they don't have one. You both need to answer this question honestly and discuss any prejudices that you may have or the limits to which you can handle a particular situation that you are prejudiced against.

- Is there any kind of person that you would not be friends with?
- How would you feel if your child dated someone of a different race or ethnicity? The same gender? How would you feel if he or she married this person?
- Are you aware of your own biases regarding race and ethnicity? What are they? Where did they come from? (We aren't born biased, we learn it, and it's important to trace where it was learned.)
- Have race, ethnicity, and differences ever been a source of tension and stress for you in a relationship?
- Is it important to you that your partner shares your vision of race, ethnicity, and difference?
- What were your family's views of race, ethnicity, and difference?
- Does your work environment look more like the United Nations, or like a mirror of yourself? How about your personal life?

## **68. Country of Birth**

I'm not asking you to think less of a country or be racists but there are practical things to ask e.g. visa status, permissions to stay in that country, whether or not they want to move back to their country of birth etc.

I'm British of Pakistani origin. I believe I can achieve a better quality of life in Pakistan where I do a lot of charitable work,

teach business to young entrepreneurs and deliver motivational talks; I think I am more needed in Pakistan. Prior to getting married I informed my wife that she will be living with me in any country I live and she consented. She doesn't know the language quite well and at times misses her family.

Before we had children, I took my wife along with me on numerous business trips around the world and visa requirements were never an issue because we both have British passports. Had my wife been a Pakistani national, it would have been hard.

When we travel to Pakistan, My wife always needs a visa which is a time consuming process and costs money. Also other issues can arise like citizens of certain countries having to pay their taxes in their country of origin regardless of what other country they live in.

Some countries allow you to have dual citizenship whilst others don't. Consider all these logistical issues before you get married.

Find out their country of birth and the implications that come with it that for example if they are not from the country that you are currently residing in, find out if they have proper permission to be in that country i.e. visas, passports. You can also discuss:

- Citizenship status

- Do they have dual citizenship?
- How often do they travel back?
- Do they plan on moving back to their country of origin for good?

## **69. Ethnic Culture and Background**

As globalisation and multiculturalism grows, we find that a lot of our cultures and backgrounds differ from each other. And because a lot of our beliefs and practices are shaped by our background and cultural practices. It is very important that you thoroughly talk these pre-programmed “beliefs” about the other’s culture, before getting married.

We all like a bit of variety in our lives but certain cultures may not get along with others, not due to racism, hatred or animosity of any kind but by sheer practicalities. In certain cultures, it is normal to sleep on the floor, while you may prefer sleeping on a king-sized puffed-up mattress. Certain cultures have spicy cuisine, while in others the food is quite plain. Are you going to prepare different dishes every day? Are you both willing to make compromises?

Each culture has its own approach to living life e.g. sharing of assets by the extended family, transition into adulthood for

males, respect for elders, dress code, raising of children, festivals etc.

So the key question to ask yourself and your potential spouse is, whose culture will prevail/dominate the relationship. Is either of you apprehensive about adopting the other culture/tradition?

For example I am from a British Pakistani background. My wife is of an English background. It was something understood from the get go that my culture would be more dominant. Luckily for us, we share something which is our British-ness... so as it stands, 35% of our family culture is Pakistani and 65% British,... we really don't know when one ends and where the other starts. We have almost got it down to a fusion.

The kids are though reminded at every opportunity given to me of their Pakistani ethnicity :)

## **70. Dietary Needs and Cuisines**

Different people have different dietary needs and may prefer different cuisines. This may seem like an unusual question it is vital to answer, since meals are a very important aspect in a relationship. You are most likely going to be eating most of your meals with your significant other, so it crucial to find out any specific needs & habits.

Thinking back to the question about medical conditions; if you or your potential spouse have any ailments or disorders relating to the stomach, gut, kidneys etc, specific dietary needs will soon follow.

Some people may have gluten or wheat allergies, some may have irritable bowel syndrome or be lactose intolerant and therefore could require a restrictive diet.

If you are entering into an interracial marriage, you need to know what type of food makes the cut for you. Can you blend both cuisines into a mix that works for both of you, or will you be eating/cooking separate meals?

If you love your food, which we all do, then don't skip on the following sub questions:

- How many times a day do they eat?
- Is there anything they dislike to eat?
- Can you eat your partner's cuisine every single day?
- What is their most important meal in a day?
- Are they open to trying new cuisine?
- Any allergies or intolerances to certain foods?
- Do they have any specific dietary needs?
- How often do you eat take-out?

## **71. Can you cook?**

It is important to find out if either of you can cook and how well. This question does not give regard to the common stereotype that women are the ones who should know how to cook, but enables the couple to discuss their culinary skills.

- How important is it that I can cook or not?
- Who will do the main cooking in the house?
- How often will we be eating out a week?

## **72. What religion do you follow?**

This question will allow you to find out the religion of your partner and how serious they are with it. This is important because religion plays a major role in shaping people's opinions and lifestyles. In a situation whereby the two of you subscribe to a different religion you may want to know the following:

- What religion do they follow if any?
- To what extent do they practice it?
- They are willing to change?
- What is their family's opinion?
- Is it acceptable in their religion to marry one not of the same? how will you handle this?



### **73. Which if any holidays do you believe are the most important to celebrate?**

I am personally of the opinion that birthdays and valentines along with halloween etc are overly commercialised holidays that only benefit big organised businesses.

Through a sustained media onslaught these businesses have convinced many of us believe that we need to celebrate these occasions as something special.

I see them as unnecessary financial burdens on families of any size. What makes it worse is that all these are annualized holidays.

Personally I choose to celebrate only personal achievement like having a baby, achieving good grades, getting married, landing a new job, starting a business etc. Joining in peoples one off triumphs, sharing my true feeling in their well deserved happiness.

- Which holidays do you celebrate? Birthdays, religious holidays, valentines day, national days etc?
- Do you maintain a family tradition around certain holidays?
- How do they celebrate the above mentioned holidays?
- How much do they typically spend on a celebration?

#### **74. Do you celebrate Valentine's Day?**

To me valentine's day is a day that has been overrated by mainstream media and corporate businesses as the day of love, when couples are to celebrate their love for each other.

As ridiculous as the idea of celebrating love on a day sounds, there are some people who participate in it. It will be important to find out if your partner is subscribed to this belief or shuns it.

- Do you celebrate Valentine's Day?
- If you do celebrate valentine's day, as husband/wife what do you expect from your life partner?
- Would it be a deal breaker if your spouse did not celebrate Valentine's day?

#### **75. Are you able to admit when you are wrong?**

Some people can't admit when they are wrong. This could be because they are a stubborn person or they do not want to appear weak, stupid or to protect their pride.

This can be very problematic if your future partner is someone who can never admit when they have been wrong, and even more distressing a situation is if you are both of this mindset.

Find out now and be honest with yourself and your future spouse. You don't want to end up in some long winded fights because you were both too headstrong about being right.

- Do you admit when you are wrong?
- How long does it take you to admit that you are wrong?
- Can you live with a person who always thinks they are right?

## **76. Are you a physically affectionate person?**

Physical affection is one of the most important things that keeps a relationship alive by increasing the bond between a couple. Physically showing affection can show to the other person that they are appreciated and loved.

The below set of questions allows you to discuss physical affection and how far you'd take it.

- How do you show affection?
- Are you ok with showing affection?
- Are you ok with receiving affection?
- What is their view on (PDA) Public Display of Affection?
- Will we be kissing goodbye every day?
- Will we greet each other after work with a kiss?

- Will we be cuddling up whilst watching something on the box?
- Would we be OK with drinking/eating from the same utensil?

### **77. Do you have any sexually transmitted diseases?**

The aim of this question is to find out the past sexual activity of your partner and whether or not they have any sexually transmitted diseases. For some people this may be a deal breaker due to either religious preferences or conditioning and thus it is important to be very honest and open when answering this question.

Others may want each other to get tested just to make sure. Try not to be offended, if you are asked to take a test even though you have never had a sexually transmitted disease. It is better to know for sure rather than just hope you haven't.

- Have you ever had a sexually transmitted disease?
- Are you a virgin?

### **78. Do you have a medical problem that impacts your ability to have a satisfying sex life (for example, erectile dysfunction, premature ejaculation, vaginal dryness, drug/alcohol addiction, etc)?**

It is vital to discuss the potential sexual performance of the couple and discover if they have any condition that may

hinder their performance in terms of love making. The answer to this question could be a deal breaker, because sexual satisfaction is key in a relationship in order to avert future problems like infidelity.

- Do you have any medical issues that might hinder your love making ability?
- What are your sexual expectations?
- **CONSIDER SERIOUSLY:** Can you tolerate a person with such lacking, be it through no fault of their own.

### **79 Do you consider yourself a sexual person?**

A lot of people get stuck in sexless marriages which then leads to adultery, sexually transmitted diseases, frustration, resentment and eventual destruction of the union which might by now have become a family. What if we matched sex-drives from get go? The high with the high and low with the low... everyone would be happy.

This is a direct question addressing the expectant level of sexual activity of your spouse. Keep wordings decent & I apologize in advance for adding such a crude question but it is so important that even if I was compiling a top 10 question list. This would be in it.

- How important is sex to you?
- What do you enjoy about sex?
- How often you expect to have sex?

## **80. Do you feel comfortable initiating intimacy?**

As much as we are all comfortable being intimate, some find it extremely hard to initiate intimacy for various reasons.

It would help a great deal in establishing their stand on this. Please define what initiating intimacy means to both of you e.g. to some it means foreplay, to others it may not necessarily mean so. Be very candid about this as intimacy will play a major role in the success and/or failure of your marriage.

- Do you feel comfortable initiating intimacy? If yes, why? If no, why?
- Who do you expect to initiate intimacy? The husband? Wife? Or both?

## **81. How many nights per week would you consider having intimacy with your spouse?**

Forget intimacy for the sake of procreating. I'm talking about getting jiggy with it for the sake of enjoying this God given sensory pleasure drive.... Talk about it, do not get shy but do keep the wording decent.

More than 50% of all failed marriages are due to intimacy related issues. So as awkward as this question seems, it is

crucial that both of you know what you are getting into. There are people who are not necessarily sex-maniacs but feel that they are missing a crucial facet of their lives if they go three days without being intimate with their spouse. How your potential partner responds to this question should give you a glimpse of what to expect.

- Are you comfortable with their response?
- Can you live up to their desire/need?
- What should they expect, intimacy-wise, once you get married?

## **82. What would you do if the Intimacy dried up?**

Now having discussed the above few questions. Lets close with the big WHAT IF. Yes it can happen. A lot of ladies lose their labido after becoming mothers. Either partner might lose desire through some medical miss-hap or their ability to perform sexually through illness or physical accident.

What course is to be taken then? Is polygamy an option for the husband? Is breakup inevitable? As hard as these questions sound. Most people have to face them and I'd rather save you the heartache later that might come by discussing and making wiser decision today.

## **83. How much time do you allow to pass before you can forgive someone?**

For most of us the correct answer that we answer without even thinking is that we forgive as soon as the offender asks for forgiveness and shows that they are truly remorseful for their actions.

Yet to others, this simply might not make the cut. Some may want revenge whilst others may take time to open up to you again, especially in cases of hurt feelings.

- How quickly do you forgive?
- Do you harbour animosities from past events?
- Are you harboring any heartache from past relationships that might be used to compare your new relationship?
- We are all susceptible to erring, what would it take for them to forgive you?
- Are they the type that seek revenge?

#### **84. How do you deal with pressure? Do you know how to deal with pressure, Can you handle pressure?**

Everyone has a different response mechanisms when under any kind of pressure. Some go out for a run, others for a drink. To others, a problem shared is one half solved.

It is important to talk find out how they deal pressure and its effects. e.g. if they think they can drink their problems away, are you comfortable with that?



- Do they deal with pressure by drinking or indulging in unhealthy things? (Emotional eating, fast food, drugs)
- Do they get stressed or angry and lash out at those close to them?
- Can you tolerate a person close to you who cannot handle pressure?
- Do they channel pressure into a positive force and use it as motivation to push forward?

### **85. Why do you live where you do?**

Some people choose their area of residence based on its proximity to their place of work or their children's school. Others prefer living anywhere else but in towns and cities. To some none of this matters; they'll be okay living anywhere as long as they can afford rent.

- What criteria did they use to choose their area of residence?
- What are their preferences with regards to this?

### **86. If you got married soon, what kind of living arrangements have you got in mind?**

Once married, where will you both be living?

- Will you both move in together?
- If you both own a house each, whose house will you move into and what will happen to the now vacant home? If rented out, how will the rent to spent?
- Incase both of you still live with your parents, would you consider continuing with this arrangement?
- How do you feel about moving in together with your in laws, at least whilst you guys still don't have kids so you can save your rent money for maybe a deposit on a family home of your own??

**87. Are you willing to move close to your spouse after getting married?**

- Who should relocate? The husband or the wife?
- Are you comfortable with them not living with you for a certain period of time at the beginning of the marriage?
- How will you keep the marriage going if you are unable to live together?
- If you are living in different countries, do you hold a visa for your partner's country of residence?
- What steps are you going to take to ensure you live together?

## **88. Where and what is your dream place to live in/at?**

This question seeks to find out your ideal setting to live in i.e. the city, suburb or country side. Life in the city is very different to life in the country and a dramatic change may take away something from a person's personality.

Your dream doesn't necessarily have to be one of those grandiose and idealistic fantasies that most people have. It may be something as simple as living in a peaceful place in the countryside away from the "chaos" that's often common in towns and cities. Or maybe you want to be in the heart of the city - but do you both want the same?

Remember, ideal living and practical living are very different. Perhaps you must live in the city for work.

- If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
- Do you prefer urban, suburban, or rural settings?
- Are they already living in their dream home?
- Are they willing to relocate?
- Where would they like to live after retirement?

## **89. What do you do for a living?**

This is a straightforward and simple question that only has straightforward and simple answers. What you need is to be

sure you are okay with how your partner earns their way.

### **90. Do you like what you do for a living?**

Loving what you do contributes greatly to the happiness of a person. However, circumstances may force us to take on certain jobs because we have pressing financial needs which can affect our mood.

- Do you like what you do for a living? If not, why?

### **91. How many hours do you work?**

The importance of this question can't be overlooked because the number of hours you work per day or week directly affects the time you spend with your family.

For example, a husband who's decided to cater for all the financial needs of the family may have to work many hours to ensure this is achieved and the consequence is less time with the family.

*“During my own marriage meetings, I made it clear to my wife that I will be the man of the house and take care of all the resources of the family while she will be the nurturer and ensure everything in the house runs smoothly. This was*

*agreed upon prior to our marriage so when I am working long weeks I know she understands why.”*

Be keen to discuss with your partner what will work for the both of you. You need to find a win-win for the both of you. You may need to work more hours while they may need to cut down on theirs. Find the right balance of what will work for you.

## **92. What is your retirement plan?**

Some people spend their life preparing for retirement to make sure they're going to be okay. Some people don't give it a second thought and as a consequence could be left struggling. This is something worth talking about as hopefully you will be sharing your retirement together.

- Do they have a plan?
- Are you implementing it?
- When do you plan on retiring?
- What do you plan to do when you retire?

## **93. What is your annual income?**

You DO need to know this as it has huge implications on your lifestyle and living standards for you and your children. Put it as bluntly as I have and blame it on me.

Say Azad Chaiwala told you to ask this question if they feel uncomfortable with it.

**94. Are you happy with your current level of income?**

As is the norm many people aren't satisfied with their level income. This sometimes pushes them to work extra hard so that they can cater for their needs. But when is enough enough? and is the extra work worth the cost to your family? Or perhaps you are too content with your current situation and aren't prepared for the extra financial responsibility of supporting a family.

Talk it out.

**95. Do you have significant debts?**

You need to know this information for the longevity of your family and the additional pressure these things might put onto it. Can you bare not paying rent one month or putting food on the table because your spouse has gambled it away or had to pay their debt off that you had nothing to do with.

Sooner or later you'll need a family home and imagine you are three months into your marriage, having the time of your life only then to have bailiffs storm into your house and rid it of most of your possessions because, as you later come to find out, your spouse had taken a loan prior to your union.

- Is my debt your debt? Would you be willing to bail me out?
- Do you gamble?
- How good is your credit score?
- Are your debts under control?

I don't care if this is awkward or embarrassing to talk about. You will regret it if you don't know the whole truth now. And if you don't tell the whole truth then you are setting yourself up for failure. Remember this is a marriage meeting based on honesty, not flattery. So don't pretend you're living the high life if you're not or it is all supported by credit. Have a flash car? Great. But is it on credit?

## **96. Discuss the wedding ceremony?**

I Azad Chaiwala, highly recommend smaller wedding ceremonies with just immediate family and close friends attending. Make the whole thing last maximum one afternoon and a exercise where family members from each side meet their new in-laws. Don't scrimp on food but beyond that the less it costs the better. Less people means more time to spend with each guest that matter and lots of money left to later have a good honeymoon, bigger deposit towards a home or whatever else you two later decide. But that is my own idea of what a wedding should be... what is yours?

It would be good to discuss the type of wedding you wish. Are you wanting something grand or private. Something expensive or inexpensive. By having this conversation now, you will give yourself a good springboard for the rest of the questions to follow.

### **97. Do you have any savings?**

I believe that everyone should set aside some funds for reasons obvious to all. The “rainy day” fund is a good idea. This may be from the most basic of ways like saving a percentage of your salary to more strict ones like buying cheaper options of the same product.

Saving reveals a lot about one's perspective on managing their finances. Sensibility and forward planning is what you're looking for here.

- What percentage of their income do they save?
- How much do they currently have as their savings?
- Do you believe in putting a little something away for a rainy day?
- Do you believe in buying things that are value for money?
- Do you buy branded or non branded?
- Are you an impulsive shopper?

Remember differences here can be catastrophic to one's relationship. Imagine you struggle each and every month



saving for the future whilst your spouse flaunts it all away. How would you feel?

### **98. Who should handle the finances in your family?**

Whether you agree to revive the traditional role the husband as the sole provider or you agree that both partners will chip in, someone has to be responsible for the family's finances.

It is best to agree on this now to avoid an issue arising later in the marriage.

- Who will be the main provider if any or will your both contribute.
- Will contributions to family coffers be equally divided?
- Do you believe in establishing a family budget?
- Who will be the one who organising and keeping a record of financial spent?

### **99. Do you want to combine incomes in a mutual bank account, or have individual accounts?**

If you have individual accounts then don't hide your wealth from each other as this will cause tension in the family. Be sure to discuss your preferences and air out your concerns about the same.

When you share a life together you naturally share your wealth, so why would you **not** be willing to share a bank account?

Maybe one person is better at managing money than the other, it could be possible that one one should hold the 'main' account for the bills and the other should have their own account separate. Whatever your preferences or reasons, talk it out.

### **100. Sign the pre-nup**

Marriage is as real as anything we face in life, including divorce. We therefore need to prepare for the worst.

Regardless of opinion you must sign this document. I don't care if you think this is setting yourself up for failure or not showing full commitment to the marriage. This type of thinking is rubbish. Sign the bloody document to make things easier if God forbid your marriage ends through a divorce. I demand it.

We need to prepare for the worst now even though we hope it will never happen. Remember this marriage is based on logic not lust.

Don't make this a trust issue. In order to have a successful marriage, and trust me on this, you need to sign a prenuptial. The law is not always right or fair.

I want you to discuss this from the onset, a billion different things can affect a marriage, this should not be one of them.

People who make a big issue out of signing a prenuptial are probably there to get your money. No one owes anyone anything.

### **101. If you had unlimited resources, how would you live?**

This question is similar to the one that asks how one would spend the last 10 days of their life. It may sound as a trick question but it offers a chance to see how they view life from a different perspective.

This question shouldn't be treated as a deal breaker question, but should be more of a palate cleanser in between such serious questions. Have some fun with it.

### **102. If one of us doesn't want to work, under what circumstances, if any, would that be okay?**

There are many different challenges in someone's life that may affect their ability to work. It could be medical, mental, or just circumstance.

If your spouse isn't willing or able to work then try to understand why and find out if..

- Their reasons are valid and you agree with them.
- Their solution to the problem.
- You are able to survive without the income.

### **103. Talk about substance use/abuse**

Many people have used or abused a substance of some kind. Be it alcohol, nicotine, or illegal drugs. So find out about each others history and opinions with regards to each.

There can be hugely varying opinions regarding the use of different substances and it will cause a conflict if you are too far from each other. For example one of you might think smoking cannabis is okay whereas the other will completely detest it. One of you might drink far too much for the other to be comfortable with.

Also the use or abuse of drugs can bring serious health and financial issues in the future. Are you willing to face them with your potential partner if it so happens?

Be sure to discuss all this honestly.

### **104. Ask About Family Background and Structure**

**Note:** *This question and the next 3 might be crossing over a lot. It might be a good idea to read them all before starting the family topic.*

What you are trying to establish through this question is the family ethos and culture (both internal and external). Do they come from a broken or stable, intact, closely knit family? Do they know members of their extended family i.e. their aunts and uncles?

Perhaps they come from a broken family and from this they would like, at all costs, to right the wrongs in their family. They have probably found the inner strength to raise their children in a stable family. That's another external factor to keep the marriage going because they are willing to make more sacrifices and put in more into the marriage because marriage is about sacrifices.

One's family background and structure directly or indirectly shape a person's character. A man may be a family man, fulfilling all their responsibilities because his dad did the same. Another may fancy polygamy because he's seen it work.

- What type of family do they come from (large or small, polygamous or monogamous)?
- What do they love and/or dislike about their family?

- What would they change in their own new family compared to the one they grew up in? and what would they like to keep?

### **105. How is your relationship with your immediate family?**

This Question is definitely a must ask question. Like it or not, his/her family will eventually become part of your family. And once married you will see your in-laws frequently, so your relationship with them will most definitely affect these visits and their frequency.

You'll fail to make a strong new family of your own if your partner is not into families themselves. Questions to ask are:

- Are you close to your family?
- Are you or have you ever been alienated from your family?
- Do you have a difficult time setting limits with family?
- How important is it that you and your partner be on good terms with each other's families?
- Do people in your family carry long-term grudges?
- How much influence do your parents still have over your decisions?
- How many siblings do you have?
- Are you close to your siblings?
- How often do you meet? When do you meet?
- How often do you meet your parents?

- Describe your relationship with your extended family.
- Is there any family member that you have fallen out with? if so who and why?
- How do you feel about living close to either one of your families?

### **106. How will we argue?**

Asking this question is vital to know for your safety and sanity. Let no one lie to you, you will argue as a couple. Depending on your compatibility and oneness of mind, the frequency of your fights will change from time to time.

It is therefore important to know how your future spouse will argue and what they will argue about. Arguing over the thickness of soup won't really do you any good & neither will arguing, whether right or wrong solely to win the argument.

A relationship's success is often based on how differences are dealt with. So this questions is even more important to ensure you never let little things balloon out of control because you both don't know how to settle differences.

Some of the questions you can ask are:

- Do you get mad and out of control when arguing?
- Do you tend to swear and curse more when arguing?
- Does logic play a role in your arguments or is it all emotional.

- Can you admit when you are wrong?
- Must you always win an argument?
- Do you throw plates or calmly discuss issues?
- Do you lash out or silently shut down when disagreements arise?

You should also ask some questions about how their family/parents argue or argued. This will give you useful insight & help you judge if your partner will come to mimic the conflict resolution patterns of his or her parents or avoid them.

If you are at a later stage in your marriage meetings and it looks quite likely that you both will choose each other, it would be wise to set some ground rules at this stage on how conflicts will be handled. Rules that both of you can realistically adhere to. Good Luck.

**107. How important is it that you and your partner be on good terms with each other's families?**

It is really important for me to be on good terms with my relatives; it's just how I was raised and therefore prefer it that way. Someone else may hold a different opinion on the same and they may have a good reason for this.

Remember we can choose our friends but not our family and for that reason, family relations is that one area where both of you need to present a united front.

Before agreeing to marry, ensure you have at least 3 separate meetings with his/her parents & siblings.



Talking points:

- Do we like each other's, parents? Can you strike up a compromise?
- What place does the other's family play in our family life?
- How often do we visit or socialize together?
- If we have out-of-town relatives, will we ask them to visit us for extended periods? How often?
- Is there any relation of yours you have fallen out with, if so whom and why? (listen to their reasons and be super judgemental, is their reason valid? you decide).

### **108. Hidden responsibilities and skeletons in the closet**

**NOTE:** Use this one question if you don't fancy asking the next 5 questions individually.

Most of us have skeletons in our closets, some may bring on major responsibilities. Share them with your spouse, trust me, they will eventually stick out their ugly heads. Share these experiences even if they aren't necessarily as a result of something you did wrong. For example, you may participate in philanthropy but are uncomfortable putting it out in the public domain.

Examples of hidden responsibilities include: volunteering for an event or charity, child support payments, taking care of an ill or elderly person in your family, loans, convictions etc.

You can thank me by sharing this book and the **Marriage Meeting** concept with others.

### **109. Financial assistance to your family**

The whole aim of me setting up of [www.GoMarry.com](http://www.GoMarry.com) and creating **Marriage Meetings** was to build stronger families. Thus in my view, helping family members out in time of need is definitely an attractive trait. Others might not have the same viewpoint.

Things to discuss:

How will they respond to helping your brother with his rent, tuition fees, etc? What would be your reaction if your husband or wife took some money from your family savings, but obviously not compromising your basic needs, to sort out their family members? Would you agree to forego some luxuries?

- Do you have any issues with me supporting my parents through their old age financially?
- Would you be willing to make cutbacks for me to meet my above obligations?
- What is your viewpoint in helping family members financially?
- Who deserves it and who doesn't? when is enough, enough?

### **110. Let's talk about politics, yipee :)**

In a practical world, we cannot avoid politics even if we wanted to, as it affects almost everything in our lives. The aim of this question is to find out your potential spouse's political affiliation, views and level of involvement with politics.

- Do you consider yourself liberal, moderate, or conservative?
- Do you reject political labels?
- What is your attitude about political involvement and social action?
- Do you agree with a social state?
- Do you have any active involvement in any political activity? if so what exactly?
- Who have you voted for in the past?
- Can you two live together with opposing political views?
- Can they handle different viewpoints in the world/life.

### **111. What is your proudest achievement?**

This question gives you more insight into the type of person you are potentially getting married to. It will reveal their mindset and please for the sake of everything Holy, do not marry someone who does not align with your own mindset.

Doing so will be a lonely journey. So ensure you take full advantage of this question, learn as much as you can so you can find a companion and not a ball chain.

Achievements come in all forms, to some, it might be graduating at the top of their class, to others helping street children, or getting themselves out of poverty or maybe overcoming a mental issue or disability, etc.

Receiving an answer to this question will greatly help you see their definition of success and achievements. So ponder the following:

- Would you want someone who only sees monetary achievement as success?
- Do you value their effort & vice versa?
- Maybe you are an overachiever and they are don't have the same appetite. Will they be holding you back?
- Maybe you value spending on others as an achievement and they spending on themselves.

## **112. Your thoughts on Neighbours & Community Spirit**

**NOTE:** This questions is not a deal breaker but will give you further personality based information about your potential spouse. Don't jump to this question if you have not yet asked at least 10 of the tough ones already.

Most people have neighbours. How we relate to them can sometimes affect our stay in a particular place or area of residence. Some neighbours are nosey, some are quiet and keep to themselves, whereas others can be really loud and abrasive.

You want to find out if your potential spouse is concerned with what's happening around them.

List of potential questions:

- Do you talk to your neighbours?
- Do you consider yourself a good neighbour? if yes why so?
- Is it important for you to be involved in your local community?
- Do you regularly participate in community projects? Residents meetings?
- Do they run some sort of class to benefit the local community, karate club? the arts and crafts club? are they a local sports coach? fundraiser? help in keeping the area clean?
- Do they have a sense of giving and if so how?
- Talk about the amount of financial and time contribution they make if applicable.
- Why do they do it?
- (Or if they don't participate in their community) Why don't they do it?

### **113. Talk about Charitable acts?**

Charitable work is an awesome way to spend time together as a couple, family and feel good about it. Asking some of the following questions will give you more insight into your potential spouse's personality & mindset.

- How important is it to you to contribute time or money to charity?
- Which kind of charities do you like to support?
- How much of your annual income do you donate to charity?
- Do you donate your time to any charity work or charitable organisation?
- What is your take on being charitable?
- Do you practice "Charity begins at home?"

At the end of this session, ask yourself: Are you in agreement with whatever charities your potential spouse donates to? Are they spending too much of their time volunteering? What will change after marriage? You're best move is to ask them directly if someone is bothering you. This is why Marriage Meetings were made for.

#### **114. Talk about Breaking the law.**

Here you want to establish whether your potential partner is a law-abiding citizen and to do so you will need to know of

their criminal record (if any) and their general take on the law of the land.

It is admirable to be a law-abiding citizen & ofcourse it keeps you from unnecessary friction with the authorities. However, we need to also understand that oppressive laws do exist. What if your potential spouse is a human rights activist what's their take on dealing with such laws?

Some questions to ask:

- Do you consider yourself a law-abiding person?
- Have you ever committed a crime?
- Have you ever been caught?
- Have you ever been in jail? If yes, why?
- If you have not been jailed, Have you got a criminal record?

At this point in time, I'd like to remind you that this is not dating but a **PRACTICAL** Marriage Meeting, so a quick "Potential Spouse's Name + Arrested" Google search would be a good move to pull.

### **115. Let's talk about the News**

The internet boom has given us a lot of ways of accessing the news. Which means a lot more people are now reading, listening, watching the news than ever before.

Asking some of the following questions will tell you a great deal about your partner's personality and outlook of the world. The ultimate decision is still yours on whether you like or dislike their answers:

- Where do you get your news (TV news, radio, newspapers, the Internet etc)?
- What news feed/channel/source do you use the most?
- Do you believe everything you read and see in the news, or do you question where information is coming from and what the true agenda is?
- Do you follow only local or international news also?
- Do you seek out media with diverse perspectives on the news?
- Do you follow alternative media?
- Who is the president/prime minister of XYZ country?
- What media sources do you not trust?

### **116. Influence of Celebrity culture on you and your partner**

This question seeks to establish to what extent celebrities influence your partner's life. Some people admire celebrities for their various talents and achievements whilst others consider them demi-gods and let the opinion of such personalities shape their own opinion.

The latter may not be a good thing if the person they follow has a negative impact on society.



Questions to ask and make your judgement on are:

- Do you keep up to date with the latest celebrity trends? If yes, How?
- Do you buy merchandise or brands that celebrities have been paid to advertise?
- Do you seek to buy the latest offerings from a popular brand you saw a celebrity wearing just because you want the approval of others?
- Is your ideal image based on a celebrity?
- Are you interested in the drama and gossip surrounding famous actors, musicians, socialites etc?
- Do you know any celebrities personally?
- What shows do you watch on TV (be aware of superficial shows like Kardashians)
- How many hours do you spend a day/week watching/reading things about celebrities?

### **117. Talk About Vehicles**

Vehicles are an essential part of daily life for the majority of us and thus will be one of the biggest buying decision in your future family. From the daily commute to long family road trips, we cannot live without them.

Use this question to know how your partner is in and around cars. What criteria they use to buy cars right now and how they handle their maintenance.

Ask such questions like:

- Can you drive?
- Do you own a car? What is it?
- Do you consider yourself a good driver?
- Have you ever received a speeding ticket? Black Points etc?
- Can you drive long distances? 2-6 hours
- Can you drive on highways?
- Have you ever been involved in a serious accident?
- Can you change tyres? check oil levels etc??
- How do you finance your car(s)?