

Possible Interview Questions on Relationships, Friendships, Marriage

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General tactics:

- Consider the possibility of introducing this topic with your own personal experience.
- Ask questions in context of insights, realizations, changed views, or wisdom they can share.
- Consider beginning by discussing changing social patterns, and whether these changes are good or bad.

Specific questions.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The following are suggestions from students that came up in class discussions. Not all are recommended! You must use good judgement about whether to ask any of these questions. Many of them should be asked **ONLY** if the person you are interviewing seems very open and comfortable with this subject, and **ONLY** if you have had several sessions talking with the person and have good reason to feel that the questions would not make the person uncomfortable. You should **NOT** ask these questions if it feels at all like you would be prying into an area that the person might not be fully comfortable talking about.

- Do you think sex is appropriate before marriage? Have society's views on this changed since you were younger? Have your views changed?
- Do you think being friends with your spouse is an important part of marriage?
- Did you have any serious relationships and/or friendships prior to marriage?
- How has your marriage changed across your life?
- Has there been any significant event that has changed your marriage? What was the event? How did it change your relationship?
- Has your marriage changed since you had children? How?
- Are friends important to you?
- How have your friendships changed since you were younger?
- How was dating different when you were young from how it is today?
- Are your friends more of the same sex or the other sex? Has this changed?
- Has anything else changed?
- How do you feel about the relationship between love and marriage?
 - did you love your spouse when you got married?
 - did your feelings about your spouse change over the years?
 - have your spouse's feelings changed about you?
- What are your views about divorce?
- What do you think are the guidelines for a successful marriage?
- Have you ever been through a time when you felt a void that needed to be filled by someone other than your spouse?
- Do friendships differ from marriage relationships in your experience?
- If you could do your marriage over again, what would you do differently?
- Some marriages are "passionate," some are "companionate": which fits you?
- Did friends and acquaintances go through affairs? Divorces? How did you react?
- Describe your dating and/or other relationships before marriage.

- When you have a personal problem, to whom do you turn?
- What are the differences between romance and love? love and friendship?
- Did you and your spouse have friends of the opposite sex? How did you feel about that?

General:

- If you were doing it all over again, would you do anything differently?
- Is there anything you've learned that you didn't know 20-30 years ago?
- If your child were getting married and asked what you thought was the most important thing you've learned about how to have a successful marriage, what would you say?

Possible additional questions for interviews on relationships:

- How important are relationships to you?
- Has this changed across your life?
- From your experience, what have you learned about relationships?
 - Have you made any mistakes you have learned from?
- Conduct a "relationship analysis."
 - describe your most important relationship.
 - what was/is its duration?
 - how often did you see each other?
 - analyze in terms of the Sternberg model:
 - what was the degree of **intimacy** (disclosure, sharing, caring)?
 - what was the degree of **passion** (romance, infatuation, sexuality)?
 - what was the degree of **commitment** (long-term, monogamy, relationship as a priority)?
- Following are some "guidelines for ideal relationships" that have been suggested in various class discussions. How important is each of these to you?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good communication - Trust - Love - Acceptance - Being friends first - Good sex - Mutual respect - Attraction: physical - Attraction: mental 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Common interests - Sacrifice for the other - Investing time in the relationship - Making the relationship a high priority - Loyalty - Honesty - Being non-judgmental
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