



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

## NAME

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- What is your name? Is there a reason your parents chose that particular name?
- Do you have a nick-name and if you do, how did you come to get it?

## PLACE OF BIRTH

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- Where and when were you born?
- Can you tell us what the home that you grew up in was like?
- Did it have electricity, heating, indoor toilets, telephones, TV or record players?
- Was there any feature about your house that stands out in your memory today?

## FAMILY

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- What were your parents' names?
- Do you have brothers or sisters? How many siblings do you have?
- What are their names? Can you describe what they were like - funny, bossy, serious?
- Did you have grandparents living with you or nearby? How much were they involved in your family life?
- Did you ever wonder what your parents or grandparents were like as children?
- Did you have aunts, uncles or cousins living nearby? Did you see them often?
- What types of activities did you share with your family members?
- Which of your family members did you spend most time with, and why?
- Which family member do you admire most and why?

## FRIENDS

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- Who were your friends at school and when you were growing up?
- What types of activities did you share with them? • Are you still in touch with any of them now?
- What are the most memorable moments of your time together?
- What was it about those particular people which attracted you to them?
- Did you ever have moments where you felt you let them down or they, you? Can you tell us about them?
- Did you have similar or different backgrounds?
- What did you learn from each other?



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

## FRIENDS (CONT ...)

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- Did you have a special friend or group?
- What was it about that group that attracted you and meant that you were part of it?
- Looking back at your friendship group, can you share any thoughts or observations about what might constitute a lasting friendship. In other words, what is your secret to a lasting friendship?

## MARRIAGE

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- When and where did you get married?
- How old were you?
- Describe to us how your wedding was different from the weddings of today.
- Did you have a church wedding?
- How did you get to the church?

## GAMES AND RECREATION

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- What sorts of games did you play growing up?
- Did you have a favourite toy growing up?
- Who did you play with, and where?
- What was a favourite activity to do for entertainment?
- Did you play games with the whole family?
- Did imagination feature in your games and to what extent?
- How did you spend your school holidays?
- Did you go to the movies or to local dances?

## RESPONSIBILITIES

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- Did you have jobs to do around the house?
- How did you feel about helping out?
- Did you get 'pocket money' to do them? How much were you given? Did you save it or spend it?
- Were you given jobs to do at school? What were they?



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

## EDUCATION

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- Where did you go to school?
- How many year levels did you complete?
- Did you finish high school? If not, would you like to tell us why?
- What were your favourite subjects? What were your least favourite subjects?
- Did you go to university?
- What subjects did you study?
- Was there a particular teacher or adult in your earlier years who had an influence on you? How?
- What are your most memorable school moments?
- Whilst you were growing up, did you have any thoughts about what job you might do?

## EMPLOYMENT

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- What work did your parents do?
- What work did you go on to do when you left school/university?
- Did you work in a part-time job whilst you were studying? What was it?
- What was the highlight of your working life?
- How did you feel when you retired?
- What was the expectation of the society on young people with regard to employment when you were growing up?
- How often were you paid?
- How were you paid?
- Did you always enjoy your job? Tell us how you managed to get through the times when you were feeling like this job wasn't for you?
- How many different employers did you change in your working life?
- Overall, were you content with the career choice you made as a young person? What might you say to a younger you looking back?

## SPORT

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- What sports did you play as a child?
- Did you have a favourite sport?
- Where did you play?



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

## SPORT (CONT ...)

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- Did your parents/family come and watch you play?
- Did you continue playing sport into adulthood?
- Did you have a coach who stood out for you in any way? Can you describe them to us.
- Do you barrack for a footy team? Which one do you barrack for?

## HAIR AND CLOTHING

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- What were the fashion fads in your day involving hair, clothing, hats and shoes, bags?
- Were you allowed to experiment with hair lengths and colours?
- Did you get any tattoos or piercings?
- What did your parents think of the fashions as they were changing?
- Did you have a favourite outfit? Do you remember where you got it?
- What sort of clothing did you wear as "casual" and what did you wear as "formal"?
- Was your school strict about uniform and grooming?
- Were there any groups that you can remember who stood out for their 'forward fashion sense' when you were growing up?
- Did your mother make any of your clothes?
- How often did you get new clothing?
- How often did you go to the hairdresser/barber?
- Did you go to any other grooming specialists like people do today (eg beauty parlours for facials, nails)?

## MUSIC

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- What was your favourite music and songs?
- What did you use to listen to them?
- Did your parents introduce this music to you or was it through some other means?
- Did you play an instrument? If so, how often did you go to lessons, how much did they cost and how often did you practise?
- Do you still play today?

## TRANSPORT

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- What was the main form of transport when you were growing up?



# SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

## TRANSPORT (CONT ...)

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- How did you get to school?
- How did your parents go shopping and carry the food and supplies back home?
- Did you have a car? Can you tell us some things about it? How often was it used?

## FOOD AND TRADITIONS

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- What was a typical family dinner?
- Did you observe any rituals around eating or food, for example, Sunday roasts, special birthday dinners, Christmas, Easter - What foods were used and were they different from the usual meals?
- Were there any special traditions in your family which you can remember?
- Were there any recipes passed down from past generations which you can remember?
- What was in your school lunch pack?
- Who cooked most of the meals in your home? Did you help cook?
- What was your favourite meal/food?

## WORLD EVENTS

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- Which of the world events had the most impact on you or your family members growing up?

## PHILOSOPHY

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- What are some of the important lessons you've learnt in your life?
- Do you have any accomplishments, or challenges you have overcome which you'd like to share?
- Describe how you would like to be remembered by your family and friends.

## DIFFERENT WORLD

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- What would you say is the biggest change you've seen in your lifetime?
- How do you feel you've managed that change?
- Did you ever ask your parents or grandparents to tell you stories about their lives?
- Would you like to share some with us?