

Global Understanding Course

Question Guide

COLLEGE LIFE

- What do you do in a typical day?
 - How much time do you spend studying?
 - How do you study? Where do you study?
 - How much time do you spend doing fun things?
 - What do you do for fun?
 - How do you communicate with your friends? (i.e., Facebook, phone, text messaging)
 - How did you meet most of your friends?

- What is your major/concentration/focus of study?
 - How did you decide on this concentration?
 - How do you decide what classes to enroll in?
 - What kinds of courses are available to you?
 - How do you register for your courses? (i.e., on a website, over the telephone, in person)
 - How are your classes structured? (i.e., lecture, seminar, laboratories, etc.)

- What did you do to apply for college?
 - How did you decide to attend your college?
 - Can anyone go to college?
 - How do people get into college?
 - How much choice do you have when choosing what area of study to pursue?
 - Is it possible to change your selected major? If so, how hard is it to change?

- Do you participate in any extracurricular activities outside of your regular studies?
 - What kinds of student organizations are there on your campus?
 - How much does your school value extracurricular activities and student organizations?
 - How did you decide to participate in these extracurricular activities?
 - How much do you personally value involvement in extracurricular activities?
 - Do you work outside of your studies? If yes, what kinds of jobs do you have?
 - Do you volunteer outside of your studies? If yes, what kinds of volunteering do you do?
 - Are there sports teams at your college? Are sports very popular at your college? If yes, what sports?
 - Do you enjoy playing sports for fun? What kinds of sports?
 - Do you enjoy watching sports for fun? What kinds of sports?

- How do students at your school pay for tuition and books?
 - Is there financial aid available at your school?
 - Would you consider your school expenses to be affordable?

- What kinds of housing are available to students at your college? (i.e., dormitories, apartments, live with families, etc.)
 - What kind of housing do you live in?
 - How did you decide to live in the housing that you do?
 - How do you get to your classes? Do you walk? Take a bus? Subway? Drive?

- How do you eat on your campus?
 - Do you eat in a cafeteria?
 - Do you pack your own food from home?
 - Do you buy food at a fast food restaurant?
 - Do you buy food at a sit down restaurant?

- What do you like most about your college life?
 - What would you consider the most difficult transition for you when you started college?
 - Is there anything that you would like to change? If so, why?

- What are your plans for after graduation?

CULTURE, TRADITIONS, AND FAMILY

- What is the typical traditional family structure in your culture or country?
 - What is your personal family structure like?
 - How much time do you spend with your family?
 - What do you do when you spend time with your family?
 - Do you have siblings?
 - What is your relationship with your siblings like?
 - Do you have “sibling rivalry”?
 - Is divorce common or uncommon in your area?

- What kinds of holidays or festivals do you celebrate?
 - How do you celebrate them?
 - What is your favorite holiday or festival? Why?
 - Are there traditions or celebrations that are lessening in popularity? Why do you think that is?
 - What are your favorite foods?
 - What are traditional foods in your area? When do you eat them?
 - Do people ever go on vacation?
 - How long do people go on vacation for?
 - When are there vacations?
 - What do people do for vacation?

- How do people generally greet one another? For example, do you shake hands, do you bow, do you kiss?
 - What do people usually say when they greet one another?
 - How do you greet a stranger?
 - How do you greet someone that you know well?
 - How do you greet elders?
 - How do you greet your teachers?
 - Is it usually considered appropriate to start a conversation with a stranger?
 - What kinds of things do people talk about when making casual conversation?
 - What kinds of things do people usually avoid talking about (are taboo)?
 - What are interactions like in businesses like restaurants and stores? Is there a mentality that “the customer is always right?”

- What kinds of gender roles do you see around you?
 - What similarities do you see between genders?
 - What differences do you see between genders?
 - What do these gender roles look like in your family?
 - What do these gender roles look like on your campus?
 - What do these gender roles look like among your friends?
 - Are there differences in the number of smokers, alcohol drinkers, gamblers, etc, between men and women? What social and cultural influences do you believe lead to these differences?
 - What standards of beauty exist for men and women in your campus, city, or country? How have these standards changed since your parents’ generation” How do people respond to pressures to fit an idealized standard of beauty?

- How do you dress on an everyday basis?
 - What do you wear for special occasions?
 - What is considered fashionable?
 - Do people tend to try to be more unique in your area, or to fit into what is considered the fashionable trend at the time?

RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, AND VALUES

- Does religion or spirituality play a role in your life at all? If yes, how?
 - Were you raised with a particular religion or spirituality?
 - Did you choose a religion or spirituality later on in life?
 - Is there a particular religion or spirituality that is very popular in your area?
 - What does a day of worship or celebration look like in your religion/spirituality?
 - How does your family or community celebrate together?
 - Is religion an important aspect of campus life?

- What values do you consider important in your life?
 - While you were growing up what values were deemed most important by your family members?
 - Are there values or behaviors that you and your parents disagree on? Like dating?

- Are there values or behaviors that you and your parents agree on?
 - In general, what motivates you?
 - What motivated you to come to college?
 - What makes you happy?
 - How would you describe your view of the world?
- What does marriage mean to you?
 - What does marriage mean in your area?
 - Does marriage have a cultural value?
 - Does marriage have legal meaning?
 - Who can marry?
 - Who cannot marry?

STEREOTYPES, POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT, AND DIVERSITY

- What is your knowledge about our country?
 - How did you acquire this knowledge? Was it through media sources such as the internet, television programs, school etc.?
- How do you think your culture is perceived by the rest of the world?
 - What stereotypes of your culture are the most troubling to you? Why?
- How do students express their opinions on current political, environmental, and social issues?
 - How do these views compare with those expressed in popular culture or the media?
- What languages do you speak?
 - Do you consider English to be a prestigious language?
 - What is the average level of competence in English in your country?
 - What languages do people speak in public and which languages do they speak in private?
 - Do native speakers of English get more respect than non-native speakers of English?
- How would you describe diversity in your campus, city, country?
 - What are the different ethnic, cultural, religious, and socioeconomic groups in your country?
 - How can you tell one group from another?
 - What stereotypes are associated with each of these groups?