### **General Marriage/Wedding**

- 1. Why have you chosen me as a potential spouse?
- 2. What are your expectations of marriage?
- 3. What excites you most about getting married?
- 4. What do you believe is the role of the husband or wife?
- 5. What are your ideal living arrangements?
- 6. Who will make the biggest decisions of the household?
- 7. Are there some things that you are NOT prepared to give up in the marriage?
- 8. What would you do if we fell out of love?
- 9. What do you think is the best way to keep love alive in a marriage?
- 10. How do you think our lives will change if we got married?
- 11. How important is it to you for us to recognize anniversaries and relationship milestones?
- 12. How do you feel our relationship should be discussed on social media and publicly in the presence of community members?
- 13. How would you like to spend special days?
- 14. What's your biggest fear about marriage?
- 15. How do you feel about engagement/wedding rings?
- 16. Are you afraid to talk to me about anything?
- 17. What do you think would improve our relationship?
- 18. What would be one thing you would change about our relationship?
- 19. Do you have any doubts about the future of our relationship?
- 20. Do you believe love can pull you through anything?
- 21. Is there anything you don't trust about me?
- 22. What type of lifestyle do you want?
- 23. Could any feelings be revived if you ran into a previous boyfriend/girlfriend even though you feel strongly about me?
- 24. What worked well for you and your previous partners?
- 25. Do you keep letters, photos, or other memorabilia from past relationships? Why or why not?
- 26. Are you comfortable continuing this relationship if there are things in my past I'm not willing to share with you?
- 27. Have you ever been violent or emotionally or verbally in past relationships?
- 28. Have you ever experienced this type of abuse?
- 29. How do you see us 10 years from now?
- 30. Do you prefer a big wedding or small?
- 31. What wedding customs/traditions are important to you?
- 32. How involved do you want to be in wedding planning?
- 33. How important is it to involve family and friends in decisions regarding the wedding?

#### Family

- 34. What is your relationship with your family (both nuclear and extended)?
- 35. Are there members of your family you don't get along with? Why or why not?
- 36. What do you expect your relationship with the family of your spouse to be?
- 37. What do you expect your spouse's relationship with your family to be?
- 38. Are you planning to have anyone in your family live with you in the future?
- 39. If, for any reason, my relationship with your family turns sour, what should be done?
- 40. How much influence do your parents have over your decisions?
- 41. Do you have a difficult time setting boundaries with your family?
- 42. Do either of us have any concerns about the other's parents?
- 43. How often do you visit your nuclear and extended family?
- 44. How often would you want your family to visit you and your spouse?
- 45. How would you deal with one of your family members speaking ill of me?
- 46. How would you handle holiday family visits?
- 47. Did you grow up witnessing any abuse by/to family members?
- 48. What did you admire about the way your parents treated each other? What did you not like?
- 49. How did your parents and siblings handle disagreements growing up?
- 50. Are you closer to your mother or father? Why?

## Friends

- 51. Do you have friends of the opposite sex?
- 52. What is your relationship like with them now?
- 53. What will your relationship with them be like after marriage?
- 54. How often do you keep in touch with your close friends? What is your preferred method of communication?
- 55. What type of relationship do you want your spouse to have with your friends?
- 56. Do you like to entertain guests in your home?
- 57. What are you expecting from your spouse when your friends come over?
- 58. Is it important that you and your partner have friends in common?
- 59. Do you have a difficult time setting boundaries with friends?
- 60. Has a partner ever been responsible for breaking up a friendship?
- 61. Have friends ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship?
- 62. What are your needs regarding maintaining friendships outside your relationship? Are either of us bothered/do we have any concerns about being able to allow each other to fulfill those needs?
- 63. Who should know about the details of arguments we have?
- 64. Who should not know about the details of our arguments?
- 65. Is there anyone close to you who feels we should not be in a relationship? Is this important?
- 66. Are there any of my friends that you don't like/prefer not to spend time with?
- 67. If your spouse's friend was rude or disrespectful to you, what would you want your spouse to do about it?

## **Religion and Spirituality**

- 68. What is the role of religion in your life now?
- 69. What are you expecting of your spouse, religiously?
- 70. What can you offer your spouse, spiritually?
- 71. What are your religious/spiritual goals?
- 72. Ideally, how would you like for your spouse to assist you in achieving your religious/spiritual goals?
- 73. Do you have an imam or sheikh you study with?
  - a. What role does this person play in your major life decisions?
  - b. What would you do if your teacher and I disagreed on an approach?
- 74. Do you regularly attend or volunteer with a mosque?
- 75. Would you expect your spouse to be involved in a mosque community?
- 76. Do you strictly follow a particular religious sect or school of thought?
- 77. Do you have strong preferences for whether your spouse adheres to your sect or school of thought of choice?
- 78. Is your family religious? In what ways?
- 79. In what ways do you observe hijab and exhibit modesty (applies to both men and women)?
- 80. If your spouse changed the way they observed hijab, how would you feel?
- 81. Are you zabihah-only? Do you have a preference for the type of food that is prepared/served in your home?
- 82. What are your opinions on polygamy?
- 83. What holidays do you observe? What are your family's holiday traditions?
- 84. What holidays are you not comfortable observing?
- 85. Which Islamic practices have you/do you struggle with observing (prayer, fasting, etc.)?
- 86. How well-versed are you on the Islamic rights each person has in a marriage?
- 87. What do you believe is a reasonable mahr (dowry)? What is unreasonable and why?
- 88. Do you actively pursue religious knowledge?
- 89. How important is it that your spouse pursue religious knowledge with you?

# Children

- 90. Do you want to have children? Why or why not?
- 91. After you are married, how long would you prefer to wait before having children?
- 92. To the best of your understanding, are you able to have children?
- 93. Would you feel unfulfilled if you were unable to have children?
- 94. What is your view of fertility treatments? Adoption?
- 95. How comfortable are you around children? How experienced are you with children?

- 96. Do you believe that a good mother will want to breastfeed her baby?
- 97. How long do you believe a mother/father should stay home with a child after it's born?
- 98. If u knew your child would be born with a genetic/intellectual/physical abnormality, how would you react?
- 99. How do you feel about abortion?
- 100. How would you describe how you and your siblings were raised (routines, values, household roles)?
- 101. How were you disciplined?
- 102. How would you like your children to be raised? What values are important to instill in them?
- 103. How would you like your children to be disciplined?
- 104. How would you react if one of your children was gay, trans, or gender non-conforming?
- 105. How would you react if one of your children said they didn't want to be Muslim anymore?
- 106. What parameters would you place on your children's interactions with kids of the opposite sex?
- 107. Do you prefer homeschooling, public school, or Islamic school for your children?
- 108. What type of relationship should your children have with non-Muslim classmates/friends?
- 109. Would you send your children to visit their extended family if they lived in another state or country?
- 110. What type of relationship do you want your children to have with all of their grandparents?
- 111. Do you envision your children's grandparents assisting with childcare?
- 112. How would you feel if your child didn't want to go to college? Wanted to join the military?
- 113. How do you feel about paying for your children's college education?
- 114. If there are members of my family that are not Muslim, that are of different race or culture, what type of relationship do you want to have with them?
- 115. How would you like to handle parental decisions with your spouse?
- 116. What parenting skills did you learn from your parents (both good and not so good)?
- 117. When we have children, how will we determine who will change the diapers, heat the bottles, prepare the meals, do the housework, bathe the child, get up in the middle of the night, take the child to the doctor, buy clothing, and dress the child?
- 118. Would you be open to reading parenting books or taking classes?

## **Everyday Living and Managing Moods**

- 119. What's your idea of the perfect weekend?
- 120. How do you like to spend your weekdays? Walk me through your ideal routine.
- 121. Would you describe yourself as clean or messy? Why?
- 122. Which household duties do you enjoy? Which duties do you loathe?
- 123. What makes you most joyful? What do you do when you are joyful?
- 124. What makes you most insecure? How do you handle your insecurities?
- 125. What makes you feel most confident/secure?
- 126. Do you fight fair? How do you know?
- 127. How do you celebrate when something great happens?
- 128. How do you mourn when something tragic happens?
- 129. What is your greatest limitation?
- 130. What is your greatest strength?
- 131. What most stands in the way of your creating a passionate and caring marriage?
- 132. What do you need to do today to move toward making your dream marriage a reality?
- 133. Are you prone to jealousy?
- 134. Have feelings of jealousy ever impacted a past relationship?
- 135. What makes you most afraid?
- 136. What drains you of your joy and passion?
- 137. What replenishes your mind, body, and spirit?
- 138. What makes your heart smile in tough times?
- 139. What makes you feel the most alive?
- 140. What's more important, work or family?
- 141. Have you ever been able to overcome a bad habit? What was it?
- 142. If I had bad breath or body odor or wore dirty clothes, would you tell me? Should I tell you?
- 143. What is nagging? Do I nag? How does it make you feel?

- 144. Do you approve without reservation of the way I dress? If I wore something you didn't approve of, how would you react?
- 145. Would it bother you if I made body noises like passing gas or burping?
- 146. When do you need space away from me?
- 147. If you're in a bad mood, how should I deal with it?
- 148. How comfortable are you dealing with conflict or initiating difficult conversations?

# **Emotional Intelligence and Communication**

- 149. Did your parents ever fight in front of you growing up?
- 150. How did your parents express affection to each other and to you growing up?
- 151. Are there aspects of your parents communication styles and affection you would like to emulate in your marriage?
- 152. What is your primary love language? Secondary?
- 153. Are you one to express romantic feelings verbally?
- 154. Are you one to express affection in public?
- 155. How do you express your admiration for someone?
- 156. How do you express your feelings to someone who has done a favor for you?
- 157. If you wrong someone, are you one to apologize? How do you prefer to apologize?
- 158. If someone has wronged you, how do you want them to apologize to you?
- 159. How much time passes before you can forgive someone?
- 160. How do you make important and less important decisions in your life?
- 161. Do you use profanity at home? In public? With family?
- 162. What makes you angry?
- 163. How do you express anger? Are you prone to yelling/throwing things?
- 164. How do you expect your spouse to express anger?
- 165. Are there any displays of anger or frustration that you are uncomfortable with?
- 166. When there is a dispute in your marriage, religious or otherwise, how should the conflict get resolved?
- 167. How do you define mental, verbal, emotional and physical abuse?
- 168. Have you ever been in an abusive relationship?
- 169. Who would you call for assistance if you were being abused?
- 170. Under what circumstances would you consider a divorce?
- 171. Would you rather discuss issues as they arise/wait until you have a few problems to discuss all at once?
- 172. What's the best way to handle disagreements in a marriage?
- 173. How can I be better about communicating with you?
- 174. How important is spending time alone to you?
- 175. How important is spending time together to you?
- 176. Whenever we have difficult feelings about each other should we 1-remain silent, 2-say something as soon as the feelings arise, 3-wait a certain amount of time before raising the issue, or 4-do something else?
- 177. If you always say you are going to do something but never do it, what's the best way to bring this problem to your attention?
- 178. What's the best way for me to communicate difficult feelings about you so that you're not offended?
- 179. What would make you not want to talk to me?
- 180. Do you feel you could communicate with me under any circumstances about any subject?
- 181. How do you feel about us occasionally "going to bed angry"?
- 182. How do you express gratitude?
- 183. How would you like your spouse to express appreciation to you?
- 184. Are there any topics you think are NOT important to communicate about with your spouse?

# **Health and Wellness**

- 185. What is your family medical history?
- 186. Are there genetic diseases in your family or a history of cancer, heart disease, or chronic illness?
- 187. How would you describe the current state of your health?
- 188. How do you support your own health and nutrition?
- 189. What type of diet do you enjoy?

- 190. What are your exercise habits?
- 191. Are you willing to exercise with me?
- 192. Have you ever had a serious illness or injury? Have you ever had surgery?
- 193. Do you have any allergies and/or dietary restrictions?
- 194. Do you suffer from any (physical or mental) chronic disease or condition?
- 195. If so, what sort of support do you need from your spouse to help manage your condition?
- 196. Are you on any medications?
- 197. Are you willing to take a physical exam by a physician before marriage?
- 198. Do you have/have you had any addictions to alcohol, drugs, or tobacco?
- 199. If so, how do you feel about seeking treatment to cure these addictions?
- 200. How do you feel about seeking treatment for mental health issues?
- 201. Would you be willing to go to marriage counseling if we were having problems?
- 202. Do you have health insurance? Dental insurance? Life insurance?
- 203. Have you ever tested positive for a sexually transmitted disease?
- 204. If so, how are you managing your recovery?
- 205. What would your reaction be if your partner were to gain a significant amount of weight?
- 206. If I had to change my diet for medical reasons, would you be willing to change yours?
- 207. Are you someone who needs a lot of sleep? Do you get enough sleep?
- 208. Do you have any triggers that negatively impact your mental or physical health (keeping certain foods in the house, certain behaviors, etc.)

## Finances

- 209. What was your socio-economic status growing up?
- 210. What lessons did your parents teach you about managing money growing up (both positive and negative)?
- 211. Describe your spending and saving habits.
- 212. Do you have financial habits that you are proud of?
- 213. Do you have financial habits that you are embarrassed to admit?
- 214. What financial responsibilities would you like for you and your spouse to have in this marriage?
- 215. How do you currently track your spending/budget?
- 216. How would you like to track family spending/budgeting?
- 217. Are you currently financially responsible for anyone else?
- 218. Does managing your finances stress you out or bring you joy?
- 219. How do you think your financial habits will change after marriage?
- 220. How should you and your spouse prepare for a financial emergency?
- 221. How do you think a dual-income family should manage funds? (who will pay the bills, budget, etc.)
- 222. How do you feel about helping your spouse pay off debts?
- 223. How do you feel about hiring nannies, babysitters, or other childcare providers?
- 224. Do you use credit cards?
- 225. How do you feel about taking a mortgage to buy a new home?
- 226. How do you feel about taking out student loans for ourselves or our children's education?
- 227. Who should handle finances in your family?
- 228. How would you react if a family member wanted to borrow a large sum of money?
- 229. How important is it for you to make a lot of money?
- 230. How do you define "a lot" of money?
- 231. What is your annual income?
- 232. What are your current debts?
- 233. Do you have any other financial assets or liabilities I should be aware of?
- 234. Do you currently invest?
- 235. Do you work with a financial advisor?
- 236. Describe your current fixed expenses (recurring monthly costs).
- 237. Have you ever defaulted on a loan, had a bill sent to collections, missed filing your taxes, or experienced any other financial challenges I should be aware of?
- 238. Should individuals within a marriage have separate bank accounts/ joint accounts?

- 239. Do you believe that a certain amount of money should be set aside for pleasure, even if you're on a tight budget?
- 240. Have you ever used money as a way of controlling a relationship?
- 241. Has anyone ever tried to control you with money?
- 242. Has money ever been a factor for you in the breakup of a relationship or friendship?
- 243. What percentage of our income are we prepared to spend to purchase and maintain our home on a monthly or annual basis?
- 244. How do you feel about hiring help to keep our house and yard maintained and organized?
- 245. Do you feel it's important to save for retirement? What is your current retirement savings?

#### Career

- 246. How important is your career to you?
- 247. What are your career goals for the next 5 years? 10 years? 25 years?
- 248. How ambitious are you (career-wise)?
- 249. Are we comfortable with the other's level of ambition?
- 250. Do you bring your stress from work home?
- 251. How close are you to your colleagues?
- 252. How important is it for your spouse to come to work events and interact with your coworkers?
- 253. Do you prefer for the wife to work? Why or why not?
- 254. Would you take maternity/paternity leave if you had children? For how long?
- 255. How would you feel if your wife stopped working after having children?
- 256. How would you feel if your wife did not want to stop working after having children?
- 257. Would you be willing to get a second job if we had financial problems?
- 258. Would you mind moving if I had to relocate with my job? Could you do long-distance for any period of time?
- 259. At what age would you like to retire?
- 260. What do you want to do during retirement?

#### Misc. Lifestyle

- 261. Where do you want to live (city, suburbs, rural)? Why?
- 262. Where do you NOT want to live? Why?
- 263. What kind of community would you like you and your spouse to be part of?
- 264. How do you envision your family's level of community engagement?
- 265. How important is it for us to socialize together vs. maintain our independent social lives?
- 266. Where would you like to travel with your spouse?
- 267. What are your travel habits/routines like?
- 268. How would you feel about me going on an annual trip with the girls (or boys)?
- 269. Do you like pets? Do you want pets?
- 270. How do you learn best: Reading, Listening, Doing?
- 271. How do you like to celebrate birthdays or major life accomplishments/milestones?
- 272. Have you ever been involved in or charged with any criminal activity?

#### Sex and Intimacy

- 273. What non-sexual forms of intimacy are important to you (cuddling, hand-holding, quality time, words of affirmation, etc.)?
- 274. How familiar are you with female/male anatomy?
- 275. Is it important for you to know about my sexual/romantic history? Why or why not?
- 276. What is your opinion on birth control?
- 277. What types of birth control would you prefer for us to use?
- 278. How important is sex to you?
- 279. How often are you likely to want sex?
- 280. What are your current grooming habits?
- 281. What grooming habits do you prefer for your partner?
- 282. What arouses you?
- 283. What does not arouse you?

- 284. How do you feel about sex toys?
- 285. What sexual acts are you comfortable performing?
- 286. Which acts would you not be willing to engage in?
- 287. Is connecting emotionally before sex important to you?
- 288. Is being affectionate after sex important to you?
- 289. How do you think having kids will impact our sex life?
- 290. What do you define as cheating?
- 291. How do you feel about pornography?
- 292. If I gained weight or otherwise changed physically, how would that impact our sexual relationship?
- 293. Are you affectionate in public? In what ways?
- 294. Have you ever had relations with or desired having relations with someone of the same sex?
- 295. Do you have any issues related to intimacy/sex that your partner should be aware of (e.g. erectile dysfunction, past trauma)?
- 296. Do you have any sexual kinks or unusual preferences that your partner should be aware of (e.g. BDSM)?
- 297. How would you communicate if you weren't sexually satisfied?
- 298. If we were having sexual compatibility issues, would you be comfortable with us seeking professional help to address it (therapy, etc.)?

## In Conclusion

- 299. Is there anything that we haven't discussed that you would like to share?
- 300. Is there anything you'd like to discuss further with assistance from a third party such as a premarital counselor?