

Compatibility Pointers

Many people speak of marriage as if it were a lottery. You pick either a winner or a loser. That kind of approach makes planning and preparation for marriage a waste of time. But although no one can guarantee that nothing will go wrong (and the same is true for the best planned wedding day), it is possible to smooth out beforehand some of the areas that could cause trouble and difficulty if they had never been anticipated or talked through before marriage.

Know yourself

If you are going to be mature enough to cope with the relationship of marriage you need to have some idea of your own strengths and weaknesses. How well do you know yourself? Try answering these alternatives:

Easy

Am I at my best in the morning	or	late in the evening?
Do I like to eat little and often	or	'stoke up well' at longer intervals?
Am I good at spending money,	or	better at saving it?
Do I like staying at home	or	prefer to go out and about?
Am I shy in company	or	good with a crowd of people?
Am I always punctual	or	content to get there in the end?
Do I like working	or	blossom on holiday or at leisure?
Am I ambitious/competitive	or	content to tick over and be happy?

More Difficult

Do I throw temper tantrums when annoyed	or	sulk/get my own back?
Do I nurse long-term grudges	or	find it easy to forgive & forget?
Am I tolerant of others who think differently	or	do I judge others harshly?
Do I like making decisions	or	prefer to follow another's lead?
Am I painstaking/perfectionist	or	easy-going, able to dash things off'?
Am I often tense and uptight	or	laid back and relaxed?

Hard

- Can I laugh at myself?
- Do I find it hard to say sorry?
- Do I like my own way and how do I react when I don't get it?
- Can I enter into others' feelings and experiences?
- Do I need a great deal of re-assuring and ego-boosting?
- Can I admit when I'm wrong?
- Do I expect to be a helper? - or to be helped? -or both, at different times?
- Do I understand how important my partner's faith is?
- Am I willing to encourage my partner to grow spiritually, emotionally, and in experience?
- Do I feel threatened by some aspect of my partner's life or character?

Know your partner

When you have answered these questions as honestly as you can, ask them again ABOUT YOUR PARTNER. If you don't know many of the answers, do you really know them well enough to get married (yet)?

It is not possible to know someone perfectly- that takes a lifetime- but you need a foundation. These questions may help establish a firm basis for your marriage.