

These questions may be useful in developing your information about the mathematician. They were selected from two websites:

Some Biography Interview Questions

(http://www.web-biography.com/Sample_biographical_questions.html)

Biographical Interview Questions by Tamera Bastiaans

<http://oldfashionedliving.com/bioquestions.html>

Early Childhood

When and where were you born?

Do you recall any interesting stories regarding your birth?

What is your earliest memory?

Who was the most influential person to you as a child?

What adjectives would you use to describe your childhood? Why?

How would your parent(s) describe you as a child? Why?

Did you have any pets as a child? What kind?

What did you do during the summertime?

What was your favorite game?

Who was your first best friend?

Did you have any nicknames?

What were you most afraid of as a child?

Do you recall any interesting stories related to you by any of your elder relatives that you have never forgotten and you think are worth telling to this audience?

Describe your parents. What were they like? What did they do?

Where did your father work? What is your strongest image of your father?

Did your mother have a job? What is your favorite memory of her?

Describe your grandparents. What did you enjoy the most about them?

Grade School/High School

Where did you attend high school?

Who was your best friend? Are you still in touch with them?

What was your favorite subject to study?

Did you play on any sports teams?

What was your favorite sport?

Were you involved in any school clubs?

Did you participate in your student body government?

Is there a teacher that you remember having been particularly influential?

How would you describe yourself as a student, both socially and academically?

What did you like most about school? Least?

What sort of extracurricular activities did you participate in as a teen?

Did you earn any honors or were you recognized for any achievements?

Did you have a teen idol? If so, who was it and how did they spark your interest?

Who was your first boy/girlfriend?

What was your favorite music/band/dance in high school?

What would people you know find surprising about you as a teen?

College

Did you attend college? If so, which one? If not, why?

How were you able to attend college? Did you put yourself through school, or were you supported by your parents?

Did you live in a dorm?

Who was your most memorable roommate?

Are you in touch with any?

Why did you decide to attend college?

What subject(s) did you study and why?

Did you get a degree? In what?

What generation of your family were you to receive a degree?

Was your family supportive of your decision to attend college? How so?

How did your college experience prepare you for your later years?

If you could do it again, would you take a different academic path, or are you satisfied with the route you followed?

Did you go on to receive an advanced degree? If so, what was it and have you used it in your professional career?

What on-campus activities did you participate in?

Military Experience

How did it come about that you went into the military?

Did you ever serve duty over seas? If so, where and for what reason were you abroad?

How many years did you serve for?

What rank were you while in the service?

Did you form any long lasting relationships?

What is your fondest memory while serving duty?

What was the most difficult aspect of participating in the military?

Were you ever in combat? Explain the circumstances.

What is your opinion regarding war as a means to resolve conflict?

Would you (or did you) encourage your child to enlist? Why or why not?

What is your opinion regarding the government's compensation for veterans?

Do you consider your duty as having been a positive or negative life experience? Why?

What did you learn from the military that benefited you most in life?

Career

What was your first job?

What was your best job?

What was your worst job?

What is the longest amount of time you have ever stayed with one company? What was your position there?

In addition to being paid money, how else has your career created value in your life?

Do you have any regrets regarding your career path?

What is your most significant accomplishment as a professional?

Were you ever fired for unjust reasons?

What do you consider to be the best possible work environment?

Who was the biggest influence in your career?

What would be your ideal job?

Family

Do you have children? If so, how many and what ages/sexes?

What is your goal as a parent?

What does the word "family" mean to you?

Do you have any regrets regarding the way you raised your children?

In what way have you influenced your children the most?

How would your children describe you as a parent?

How do you describe yourself as a parent?

In what ways have your parents influenced you the most?
Which of your parents do you most similar to and why?
Do you wish you had been raised differently? How so?
What is your relationship with your parents like today?
What role do you play in your family?
How has manner in which you were raised affected the way in which you parented your own children?
Do you have siblings? How many, are they older or younger, and what are their sexes?
How are your relationships with your siblings?
Would you change anything about your relationships with them?
Who are you closest to in your family?
Who do you admire most in your family and why?
Were you raised in a broken home? If so, who were you raised by and how did this affect you?
Have you lost any family members to death?
If so, what was your relationship to them and how did their death affect you/your family?
Pets?

Love

Who was your first love?
Have you had your heart broken?
Have you broken any hearts?
Have you ever been married? To whom and for how long?
Describe your courtship.
How did you and your spouse first meet?
How did you propose/accept?
Describe your wedding/honeymoon.
Do you believe in love at first sight?
Have you ever been divorced?
Describe your worst break-up.
Who was your biggest crush?
What role do you play in your marriage/relationships?
Do you have any regrets regarding your love life?
What was the most special way you've shown someone that you loved them?
What was the most special way you've been shown you're loved?

Politics/History

What do you consider to be the most significant political event that has occurred during your life?
What do you consider to be the most significant political event that has occurred in all of human history?
Which political figure do you most admire?
Which political figure do you least admire?
Other than the present, which historical era would you like to have lived in?
What do you consider to be the most important war fought during your lifetime? In all of history?
What do you consider to be the least important?
Have you ever fought for a political cause?
What social movements have affected your social conscience and how?
What would you like to see change in the current political/social atmosphere?
Are you politically active?
If you had to choose, what one political/social cause would you give your life for?
If you could meet any historical icon, of the past or present, who would it be and why?

General

What is your definition of "happiness"?
What was your worst injury?
What celebrity would you most want to meet?
What is your most memorable travel experience?
What's the farthest from home you've ever been?

What is the funniest thing that's ever happened to you?
What was your most rebellious moment?
If you had to choose, what is the one thing you regret about the way in which you've lived your life?
What is your happiest memory?
Your saddest?
What accomplishment are you most proud of?
If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently?
How do you hope to be remembered?
How do you think people will remember you?
Who is your biggest fan?
Whose biggest fan are you?
What do you like to do in your spare time?
When asked, what's the one question you always answer with a lie?
What do you want the epitaph on your tombstone to be?
What is your most embarrassing moment?
If you could possess one super-human power, what would it be?
What is your greatest fear?
What is your greatest hope?
What are you really bad at that you'd love to be great at?
What do you think happens after death?
What place does religion have in your life?
If there is a heaven, what do you imagine it to be like?
If you were re-born as an animal, what would you want to be?
If you could be anyone in history, who would it be?
Do you have any phobias?
What's your favorite joke?
What are the main lessons you've learned in life?