

HARRY DEWULF

Story World Logistics

Regardless of the type of story, genre, or world... the author should be able to answer all of these questions without thinking.



A - FOOD

A₁: What is the staple (basic) food (e.g. bread)?

A₂: Who makes/grows it?

A₃: Is it abundant, rare, sufficient?

A₄: Where can I get some?

A₅: How did it get there?

B - WORK

B₁: What is the most common occupation?

B₂: Why is it the most common occupation?

B₃: What are 3 other common types of work?

B₄: What are 3 less common types of work?

B₅: Why are the less common ones important?

C - LAWS

C₁: What is the main system of government?

C₂: How are new laws passed?

C₃: How are they enforced?

C₄: What happens to you if you commit a crime?

C₅: What do you do if you are the victim of a crime?

D - GOVERNMENT

D₁: Who is in charge locally (city/town/village)?

D₂: How did they obtain that role?

D₃: What are their main responsibilities?

D₄: Who helps them to carry out their responsibilities?

D₅: What is their relationship to larger/central powers? (e.g. Do they answer to a central / federal authority?)

E - RECORDS

E1: How is government paid for? **E2:**
Who collects the taxes?

E3: How do they decide who pays taxes?

E4: How do they decide how much is
paid?

E5: How can I find out if someone has
paid their taxes?

F - TRANSPORT

F₁: How do you usually travel from one town to the next?

F₂: How would you transport a heavy load across town?

F₃: Who maintains the roads?

F₄: What's the fastest way to cross an ocean?

F₅: What's the fastest way to get to the other side of a mountain?

G - WEATHER

G1: What is the mean annual temperature?

G2: What is the average diurnal temperature range for each season?

G3: What is the rainfall each season?

G4: How often are there thunderstorms?

G5: Is the weather:

- tropical
- temperate
- maritime
- continental
- subtropical
- subarctic
- other

H-LANDSCAPE

H₁: What is the dominant relief (the lay and elevation of the land - e.g. hills, plains, mountains)?

H₂: What is the dominant geology (the rocks themselves - volcanic, sedimentary, etc.)?

H₃: What is the dominant wild vegetation (forest, grassland, jungle)?

H₄: What is the dominant agricultural usage (fixed arable, seasonal arable, fixed pasture, seasonal pasture, nomadic pasture, etc.)?

H₅: How uniform is the landscape?

I - ARCHITECTURE

I1: What is the favored construction technique for homes?

I2: What is the favored construction technique for other buildings?

I3: How ornamented/decorated are structures?

I4: Are there buildings whose purpose is neither domestic nor practical (e.g. churches)?

I5: How much variation is there in building style? Why?

J - RESOURCES I

J_I: Do any of the following materials appear in your story:

- iron
- steel
- aluminum
- brass
- (other metals)
- wood
- leather
- rope
- ivory
- glass
- cotton
- wool
- lime (the chemical)
- rubber
- petrochemicals
- silicon
- concrete
- coal (and / or coke)

J - RESOURCES II

J₂: For any of these, or any similar materials:

- How were they obtained?
- Who made them and how?

J₃: In general, how are raw materials obtained?

J₄: In general, how are raw materials transported?

J₅: How are waste materials disposed of?

K-ECONOMICS

K₁: What is the main unit of currency?

K₂: Who issues it?

K₃: What is the guarantee of its value?

K₄: How much of it do you need to buy the answer to A₁?

K₅: What is the biggest and smallest (non zero) income?

L-DEMOGRAPHICS

L₁: What is the total population of the country?

L₂: What is the area of the country (sqm or sqkm)?

L₃: How many people live in the biggest city?

L₄: How many people live in an average town?

L₅: What is the percentage split between urban and rural living?

M - HEALTH

M₁: What is the life expectancy?

M₂: What are people most likely to die from?

M₃: How effective is healthcare?

M₄: How accessible is healthcare?

M₅: Is it common for women to die in childbirth?

N - CHILDHOOD

N₁: How old do you have to be to legally work?

N₂: Is education provided to everyone?

N₃: From what age to what age?

N₄: What form does the most common form of education take?

N₅: How is it funded/paid for?

O - GENDER

O₁: Are roles and responsibilities aligned with gender?

O₂: Does one gender tend to dominate in all areas?

O₃: Do people generally accept or generally question traditional roles?

O₄: Are there strong behavioral differences between the genders (regardless of why)?

O₅: Have things always been the way they are?

P - TRADITION

P₁: Are there or have there ever been religions? (if all in the past, answer the rest historically)

P₂: Is one religion dominant?

P₃: Does the religion tend to the authoritarian or permissive?

P₄: Does the religion tend to the exclusive or the tolerant?

P₅: Is the religion important for cultural/ national identity?

Q - EDUCATION

Q1: Can everybody read and write?

Q2: Are there schools?

Q3: Is there free public education?

Q4: Are there institutions of higher education?

Q5: Is there any formalized teaching?

Q6: Can you get a diploma or other documentary proof of education?

R - KNOWLEDGE

R₁: How is knowledge and information stored?

R₂: How can I gain access to it?

R₃: Is everyone allowed to know anything or are there restrictions?

R₄: How is new knowledge obtained?

R₅: By whom? And how readily is new knowledge accepted?

S - HISTORY

S₁: When was the last joyous public event? (celebrity wedding, sporting triumph, conquest)

S₂: When was the last traumatic public event? (assassination of head of state, hurricane)

S₃: Has recent history been generally positive or generally negative, or a mix?

S₄: How much do people know about their recent, and more distant past?

S₅: Do they care?

T - WARS

T₁: When was the last war?

T₂: Were they attacker or defender (or other)?

T₃: How many lives did it claim?

T₄: Do people generally feel that they won or they lost?

T₅: Are they right?

U-INDUSTRY

U₁: Is there large scale manufacture?

U₂: Of what?

U₃: Is it by hand or machine?

U₄: What is the main source of kinetic energy for factory machinery (water, steam, electricity, etc.)?

U₅: What are conditions like for the workers?

V - BATTLE

V₁: What is the most common battlefield weapon?

V₂: What is the most common battlefield countermeasure (e.g. body armor)?

V₃: How big is a typical army?

V₄: How is their equipment manufactured and supplied?

V₅: How are they fed?

W - ANIMALS

W₁: What is the most common domestic animal?

W₂: Are domestic animals more likely to be:

- companions
- workers
- livestock

W₃: Do most people have daily contact with animals?

W₄: Are domestic animals generally valued and well treated?

W₅: Are domestic animals essential to survival?

X - DANGER

X₁: What is the most common type of minor injury/accident?

X₂: Are there dangerous wild animals nearby?

X₃: Are there seas or rivers with treacherous tides and dangerous currents?

X₄: Can the weather turn suddenly?

X₅: Are there geological dangers (vulcanism, earthquakes, sink-holes, etc.)?

Y - PRECARITY

Y₁: Do farmers generally produce a surplus?

Y₂: Can surplus production (of any kind) be stored against bad years?

Y₃: Are there social or administrative systems in place to deal with disasters?

Y₄: Does the country or people depend on handouts from other countries?

Y₅: Are there any essential goods that the country can't produce for itself?

Z - FOREIGNERS

Z₁: Are people generally aware of what is going on in the wider world?

Z₂: Are people welcoming or suspicious of foreigners?

Z₃: Is there a lot of cross border trade?

Z₄: If so, is it essential or luxury?

Z₅: Is international (or intergalactic) politics generally friendly? Hostile? Complicated?

BONUS 1 - DRUGS

V₁: Are there specific rituals associated with socializing?

V₂: How formal are they?

V₃: Do people use alcohol or other stimulants/relaxants/mind altering substances socially?

V₄: Is such use mainstream?
Traditional? Illegal?

V₅: How easily are strangers or newcomers accepted into a community, and is there anything specific or formal expected of them?

BONUS 2 - FREUDI

@1: Are there strong cultural taboos (things *We Don't Mention*)?

@2: Are there strong cultural totems (things *We Venerate Unthinkingly*)?

@3: What are the consequences for breaking a taboo?

@4: What are the consequences of failing to respect a totem?

BONUS 2 - FREUD II

@5: Are people generally comfortable talking openly about sex and sexuality?

@6: Are there types of sexual relationships that are taboo? (they probably happen but people don't talk about it)

@7: Are there types of sexual relationships that are illegal?

@8: Are there sexual practises that are taboo?

@9: Are there sexual practises that are illegal?

Thanks for Reading!

If you have any
question for us, you can
reach me at:

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(font: IM FELL by [Igino Marini](#))