

Jeremy Paxman

What newspapers do you take? All the broadsheets, *Spectator*, *London Review Of Books*, *Granta*, *Index On Censorship*, *The Economist*.

What foreign languages do you speak? French and Spanish poorly.

What is your all-time favourite film? *Chinatown*.

When do you listen to music? When travelling and occasionally when not.

When was the last time you prayed? Last week.

What was your first thought this morning? I've overslept.

What is the most common colour in your wardrobe? Blue, it goes with anything.

What is your favourite meeting place? The Walmer Castle in W11 for friends. The Gay Hussar restaurant in W1 for business.

What is your worst piece of architecture? Almost any Arndale Centre and the redeveloped centres of those cities which succumbed to the 1960s developers.

Who do you reveal your secrets to? My girlfriend, but infrequently.

What makes you feel secure? A warm bed on a cold night.

How regularly do you consult your horoscope? About once a month, sceptically.

What was the first lesson you learnt in life? You shouldn't feed worms to baby brothers.

What is your earliest memory? The night of the birth of my younger brother.

What is your greatest regret? Not being musical.

You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo? *The Sanctus* from Gounod's Mass for St Celia.



Jeremy Paxman was born in Yorkshire in 1950. He was educated in Worcestershire and then attended Cambridge University, where he edited the university's newspaper. He has worked as an award-winning reporter for BBC television since 1977 on various programmes, including *Panorama* and *Breakfast Time*, and is now a presenter of BBC2's *Newsnight*. His second book, *Friends In High Places*, was published in September and was based upon his research of the British establishment. He lives in London.

Which is your city of the 90s? Prague.

Where do you wish you were living? Exmoor, Sutherland or Radnorshire, where I could farm sheep.

How has your diet changed in the past ten years? I seem to

eat less, but it shows more.

What physical exercise do you do? Cycling, walking and swimming.

Who was/is the greatest intellectual influence on your life? George Sayer, my English teacher at school.

Do you really need your car? I sold it years ago.

Which charity do you support? Oxfam, Notting Hill Housing Trust, Action Aid and the Samaritans.

What is your favourite advertisement? Carling Black Label - the surfer ad.

What are you doing for the environment? The usual things, inadequately.

What part of this life would you recycle into the next? None. I would miss the rest of the old, or I would adulterate the new.

Who do you respect? Jonathan Swift, for having a sense of proportion.

What do you no longer believe in? Mature reflection.

What would you die for? Love, faith or hope.

What do you now own that you had never dreamt of owning? A life-sized imitation of Tutankhamun with exaggerated ears.

What is the most amount of money you've spent on an item of clothing? £250 on a suit.

What hi-tech device scares you? None scare me, but plenty make me feel inadequate.

How much time do you spend each day on the phone? Hours.

Under what circumstances would you support censorship? To save life.

Complete this sentence: If I were dictator for a day... I'd give anarcho-minimalism a go.

How much more do you want to achieve? Lots, but I've never had a plan, so I can't be specific.

What does being a European mean to you? Being close to history.