

Karl Marx

What animal best characterises you, and why? An old mole. See innumerable gnomish references.

What is your favourite piece of architecture? The Lloyds Building. It exposes the internal workings of the system so effectively.

What was your first thought this morning? *Damned* revisionists.

How do you want your children to resemble/differ from you? I only hope they don't turn so bolshie in adolescence.

Do you believe in a god, or any form of religion? Didn't I ever tell you the one about the opium and the masses?

You're driving through a hot, desolate expanse. What's playing on the stereo? What am I driving?

Under what circumstances would you use private medicine? Don't ask this question of a poor man with haemorrhoids and pulmonary abscesses. (I might ask Frederick for a bit extra.)

Would you like to alter anything about your appearance? My wife does keep saying I need a haircut.

What talent would you most like to have? Conciliation.

Do you pay your poll tax? No - Frederick pays it for me.

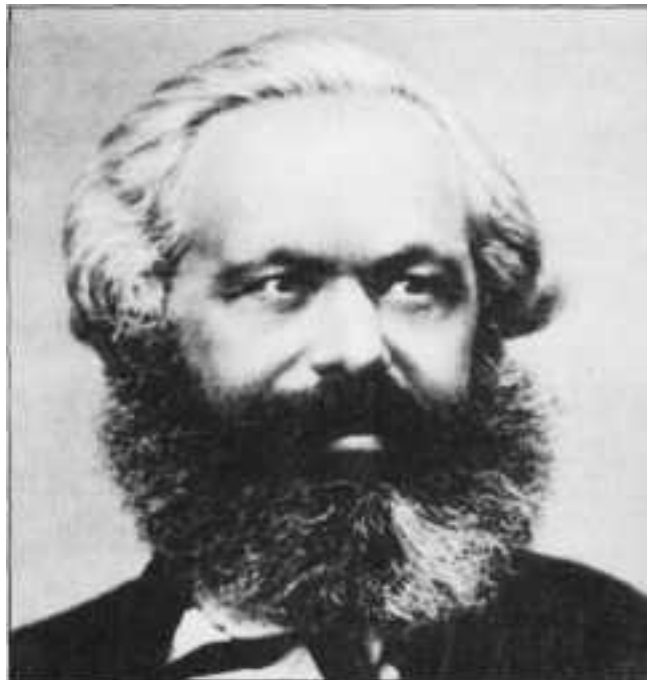
Who do you most respect? Martin Jacques. I'd never have thought of interviewing all those Tory politicians for the magazine, but in retrospect it worked.

What is your favourite joke? 'The world revolution will begin in Russia'.

Which thinker has had most effect on your own personal philosophy? Anyone I can revise.

What is your most irritating personal habit? Critiquing other people's programmes.

Do you give to charities? You don't catch me papering over the cracks of capitalism.



Born in Trier in 1818, Karl Marx studied law before taking a doctorate in philosophy. Although he originally made his name as a radical journalist and editor, he is principally known for his best-selling books, of which *Manifesto Of The Communist Party* (co-written with Frederick Engels, a freelance author and successful businessman) and *Capital* are probably the most famous, appearing on many reading lists for political studies courses. Having been expelled from many European countries, he is now permanently resident in London with his wife Jenny. His hobbies include attending workers' meetings and exposing the laws of motion of society.

Do you believe Page 3 should be banned? I was discussing this with the maid just the other day - I persuaded her that there was nothing wrong with a bit of slap and tickle.

Who would you most like to change places with? Jim Morrison. Pere Lachaise seems much more fun than Highgate cemetery.

Complete this sentence: If I were dictator for a day... Pretty obvious stuff - I'd unite the workers of the world, expose capitalism's internal contradictions, and get to meet Madonna.

What is the largest amount of money you've spent on clothes? Everyone lies when answering this question, so I'm not going to add to it.

Where is your favourite holiday destination? The next spa I visit to take a cure. (The abscesses again.)

What are your addictions? Prefacing things.

Do you enjoy playing games? I used to play draughts with Lenin. He always wanted to play chess, but I couldn't match his sense of strategy and tactics.

Which politician do you find least unattractive? It may be very politically incorrect, but Mrs Thatcher does have quite a sexy gleam in her eye...

Which frivolous newspapers or magazines do you take? I browse through the lifestyle section of *Der Sozialdemokrat* over lunch at the British Museum.

Who does the cleaning where you live? I'm not sure I know, but Frederick wrote a little pamphlet about it once.

Which is your favourite meeting place? Anywhere with three exits.

What part of this life would you take into another life? Circular libraries.

What do you now own that you had never dreamt of owning? A workers' International.

Which film star do you dream about? The pram in *Battleship Potemkin*.

Which is your favourite city? I've been banned from most of them.

Are you a thinker or a doer? I'd need more time to consider that.

What do you think is the worst job in the world? Working for a magazine called *Marxism Today* in 1991.

What do you no longer believe in? Ghosts. Especially the spectres haunting Europe.

What hi-tech device scares you? The wordprocessor. It's a gift to the revisionists.

How do you want to have changed by the end of the millennium? I want to be the subject of nostalgia.

What's your darkest fear? That all that is solid will stay solid.

Did you enjoy completing this questionnaire? It's nice to have the last word for a change. But I found it very alienating to have to write in such short sentences.0