



Potential Teacher/Coven Evaluation Questionnaire

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This sheet will help you determine your comfort level with a group or teacher. It will also help you evaluate the level of knowledge, ability, and experience a group or individual has in the craft.

Remember to use common sense and exercise caution when meeting new people and groups. Always meet in a public place until you are entirely comfortable with the individual or group.

Part One: The Initial Meeting

Meeting Date: _____ Meeting Time: _____

Group or Individual's Name:

Purpose of the meeting: _____

Trust your Intuition...

Your higher self will always help you navigate your life. It will also alert you when you should use caution. This section will help you look at what your intuition is trying to tell you about the group or individual you are considering.

1. As you approached and met with the individual or group, what was your very first impression? (This is your initial gut feeling, removed from the stories or excuses we sometimes tell ourselves when we are attempting to be polite or when we are eager to connect with others.)



2. After speaking with the individual or group members did your first impression change or did it remain the same? (Circle one)

Remained the Same

My Impression Changed

If you felt something changed, reflect on your experience:

3. Does the teacher or group seem to gain their knowledge and experience primarily from books or applied knowledge after receiving it from books, from elder instruction, or other resources? (circle one)

Book Knowledge

Applied Knowledge

Reflect on your impression:

Initial Meeting Notes:

Take some time and put your impressions together. Do you feel another meeting would be valuable? Do you feel the need to move on and consider another group or teacher?





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Part Two: The Follow Up Meeting

Keep an eye out...

In this section, you will be asked to look a little deeper at the group and/or individual as you learn more about their abilities, knowledge, and experience. You can use this section after you have met with the group more than once, but it can also be used for the initial meeting.

Remember to take detailed notes and allow yourself time to reflect.

Level of caution: Most individuals and groups will show some degree of caution before taking on a new student or coven mate. How much discretion did the group or individual show? (This may not apply to teachers/leaders who offer short-term workshops and classes.)

1	2	3	4	5
No Caution				Highly Cautious

Your notes:

Willingness to explain: Does the individual/group leader(s) define basic concepts like beliefs (outside of proprietary knowledge), activities, group dynamics, expectations, and fundamental theology willingly? Did they seem willing to share or explain without a show of contempt or mockery? Does the group/leader seem overly cautious in interpreting even fundamental beliefs? Does this reluctance leave you feeling like they a lack of confidence in their understanding? Or do you feel like you know less about the group than before the meeting?

1	2	3	4	5
Zero or poor explanation				Well explained

Your notes:





The level of personal responsibility: What level of personal accountability is expected of each student or group member? Rate the level of individual responsibility the leader or group members display when discussing group dynamics, personal choices, regrets, setbacks, and so on.

1	2	3	4	5
Zero accountability				Highly accountable

Your notes:

Theology: Does the individual or group demonstrate a substantial understanding and/or grasp of their theologies, without confusion or unnecessary contradictions?

1	2	3	4	5
Confused				In agreement

Your notes:

Ethics: A trustworthy group or individual should have a set of core values and ethical expectations that are clearly defined and openly explained. After your meeting, how you feel about this group's ethics?

1	2	3	4	5
Zero ethics				Highly ethical

Your notes:





Mutual respect: Does the group or individual display respect for you, and others?

1	2	3	4	5
Zero respect				Highly respectful

Your notes:

Spiritual Essence: Does the group or individual seem “in touch” with spirit? What behaviors or attitudes did they demonstrate to lead you to your decision?

YES	Somewhat	NO
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Your notes:

Knowledge: What level of education does this person or group seem to display? Do they seem to have a well-rounded knowledge base, backed by significant practice and experience? Or Are they just as new to this path as you?

1	2	3	4	5
Newbie				Expert

Your notes:





Knowledge Source: Where does their knowledge come from? How did they obtain it? Have they worked with other leaders, groups, and more? Do they regularly attend classes, workshops, and retreats to expand their knowledge base and experience?

- | | | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Books | | Books &
working
knowledge | | Elder
Support &
working
knowledge |

Your notes:

Organization: How organized are the leaders or teachers? Do they seem scattered and unfocused? Or do they appear well put together?

- | | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|-------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Scattered | | | | Well
organized |

Your notes:

Internal Control/Group Dynamics: What level of domestic, political, and/or social control is exercised by the leader(s) over the members of the group and students? Does the individual, High Priest/Priestess or group leader apply an aggressive or restrictive style leadership? (i.e., students & group members have restrictions on what they do/say related to specific topics on social media, or elsewhere in their personal and semi-public lives.)

- | | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| No control | | | | Dictator |
- Your notes:





Recruiting: How much emphasis is put on attracting new members? What is their level of proselytizing? (Example: Are members required to bring in new people? Does the group seem overly eager to acquire new members?)

1	2	3	4	5
Low Interest				Too Eager

Your notes:

Member Retention: Does the group or teacher appear to have trouble retaining students or members? What is the average length of time individuals seem to remain within the group or teacher before leaving?

1	2	3	4	5
Poor Retention				High Retention

Your notes:

Belief: What does this teacher or coven/group believe? Sometimes this is dictated by a specific text or dogma (i.e., The Wiccan Rede). Others might follow a freer form, accepting many theologies into their path. What are the core beliefs of this teacher or group?

Your notes:





Drug and alcohol use: Ask about the requirements or restrictions related to the use of drugs and alcohol. (If a group or leader **REQUIRES** its participants/students to consume illegal, and/or potentially harmful substances this is a warning sign! Alcohol is sacred to many clans and theologies. However, for many reasons, the requirement of its use, along with other mind-altering substances should always be avoided.)

1	2	3	4	5
Prohibited				Expected or Frequently used

Your notes:

Sexual Expectations: How much emphasis does this group (or teacher) place on sexual acts with each other, in and outside the group? Determine your comfort level with sexual acts as part of your spiritual and personal development. (While some groups find a profound correlation between sexual activity and spiritual or religious growth, this is an area of **caution**. This type of theology is not for everyone, especially those who are underage. This is an area where you need to be **110% comfortable** and willing (without coercion from others), and **of legal age** to participate. If a group or teacher **REQUIRES** its participants/students to perform sexual acts, questionable acts or engage in potentially harmful activities, of any kind, this is a **warning sign!**)

1	2	3	4	5
No Sexual Expectations				Extremely High Expectations

Your notes related to the rating:

Financial Focus: How much emphasis is placed on generating income for the group or teacher? (The fact is most groups, and teachers need money to perform specific tasks, like buying supplies. It is important to exercise caution when a group is overly focused on generating revenue.)

1	2	3	4	5
No Financial Expectations				High Financial Expectations

Your notes:





Educational expectations: Will you be expected to learn and master certain skills, concepts, etc.? Are you able and willing to meet these expectations? (Keep in mind a solid educational structure is a sign that this group or teacher will help you grow on your path. It is also a sign that the teacher or group leader is well established and experienced. Sometimes learning new things, can seem difficult or scary. You may feel like you can't do it, leading you to walk away from the opportunity; don't let it. Meet the challenge head on!)

YES NO

Your notes:

Scheduling Expectations: covens, groups, and teachers will often have a set schedule for teaching classes and observing special events. Are you able to meet the schedule requirements for this group or teacher?

YES NO

Your notes:

Humor: Does the group or individual seem to frown upon use humor? Do the participants or leaders seem to joke with one another, creating an accepting and light atmosphere? Or Are they overly jovial, and lacking a sense of seriousness?

1 2 3 4 5
Not serious Too serious
enough

Your notes related to the rating:





Gossip: Does the individual or leader(s) negatively talk about others? Does he/she/they divulge personal information about others too eagerly (especially if it is condemning information or hearsay)?

1	2	3	4	5
No gossip				Too much gossip

Your notes related to the rating:

Your Level of Comfort: Determine for yourself how comfortable you feel working with this group or teacher.

1	2	3	4	5
Uncomfortable				Comfortable

Your notes related to the rating:

Evaluate your overall experience: Take some time to reflect on your meetings and journal about the potential this group or teacher has for furthering and enriching your path.





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