Questions for Interviews for Assessing English Proficiency

In each case, the goal of these questions is to get a significant chunk of language rather than just a phrase or a sentence. They can always be followed by “Tell me more about that” or “Can you give me some more details/an example”?

• Tell me about something interesting or unusual that has been happening in your city or country recently, like a current event or a festival.
• What are you currently doing research on? Tell me about how you conduct your research.
• What are some things you are doing to prepare for coming here?
• What do you do in your free time now? How might that change when you come to Stanford?
• If I had a chance to visit your city or country, what sights would you recommend that I see? Why?
• What are your plans when you finish your time at Stanford?
• What do you like to do in your free time? Tell me about how you got interested in that.
• Tell me about something interesting that happened to you when you were young.
• Tell me the story of a recent vacation. Describe the most interesting event that happened.
• Tell me about a holiday in your country. How is it typically celebrated from beginning to end?