*A Very Large Expanse of Sea* by Tahereh Mafi

15 Questions for Regional Final

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|  | Questions | Answers | Page numbers & score breakdown |
| 1 | Why did Shirin decide that it was easier to pretend that people at her school just didn’t exist? | Because when they spoke, they always said something offensive or stupid or both? | p. 2 |
| 2 | What are the two big differences between Shirin and her brother? | He is extremely handsome  He doesn’t walk around wearing a metaphorical neon sign nailed to his forehead flashing CAUTION TERRORIST APPROACHING | p. 6  1 mark for better looking  1 mark for not as visible |
| 3 | What catastrophic event occurs two weeks into Shirin’s freshman year? What is an immediate consequence for Shirin? | 9/11.  Two men (‘dudes’) attacked her on her way home from school | pp. 6-7  1 mark for event  1 mark for attack |
| 4 | How does Shirin satisfy her interest in complicated fashion? | Flipping through Vogue magazine, scouring thrift stores on the weekend, and sewing her own clothes. | p. 14  1 mark for any 2, 2 marks for all three answers |
| 5 | Name two of the boys Navid brings home after the first day of school. Why is Shirin angry about their arrival? | Choose from Carlos, Bijan and Jacobi. Shirin is angry because she didn’t have her scarf/hijab on and hadn’t been given any warning by her brother. | p. 16 ½ mark for each correct name. 1 mark for reason for Shirin’s anger |
| 6 | Name two things Shirin learned from her dad when she was younger. | Choose from:  To work a needle and thread  To properly hem a pair of pants  How to swing an axe to split firewood  How to change a flat tire | p. 34 1 mark for each correct answer |
| 7 | Who becomes Shirin’s lab partner? What is ironic about his name? List two things. | Ocean James.  Choose from:  Because he had a strange fear of drowning  He was a lousy swimmer  He didn’t care for the ocean | p. 22 & 44 1 mark for whole name  p. 114 ½ mark for each correct answer |
| 8 | Why does Shirin wear her headscarf/hijab? Give any two reasons. | Choose from:  Because it felt good  Because it made her feel less vulnerable in general like she wore a kind of armour every day  Because it was a personal preference  She felt in control | p. 47 1 mark for each correct answer  p. 90 |
| 9 | In which decade, place and city did breakdancing begin? What was it an alternative to? | Breakdancing began in the 1970s, in the South Bronx in New York City. It was an alternative to street fighting over territories by city gangs | pp. 54-55 ½ mark for each correct answer |
| 10 | What are two questions Ocean asks Shirin in the note he passes her that he states she dropped? | Choose from:  Has anyone else noticed that you’re always listening to music?  Are you listening to music right now?  How do you listen to music all the time without failing all of your classes?  Why did you delete your AIM profile that first time we talked? | p. 133 1 mark for each correct question |
| 11 | Why does Ocean start playing basketball? Why does he continue with it? | His mother’s new boyfriend was a coach and playing made Ocean’s mother happy. Later she forces him to keep playing, and then eventually she is so absent, Ocean finds a family in the basketball team | pp. 178-180 |
| 12 | Navid and Shirin have opposite reactions and feelings towards Ramadan. What are they? | Shirin loves the month of Ramadan. She experiences clarity – a sharpness of heart and mind. Navid hates it and complains constantly that fasting interferes with his nutrition and fitness | pp. 188-189 1 mark for the two different opinions |
| 13 | Why is Shirin in the school bathroom with her scarf off? What happens then? | Some boy threw a cinnamon roll and hit her in the face, and on her scarf. A girl came into the bathroom and took a photo of Shirin without her scarf, without her permission. | pp. 227-229 |
| 14 | Which two adults cause most of the heartache between Ocean and Shirin? How? | Ocean’s basketball coach and his mum. Both try to convince Shirin to break off her relationship with Ocean. Eventually they succeed. | pp. 243-250 ½ mark for each person and 1 mark for reason |
| 15 | How does Shirin refer to time right at the end of the novel? What is this in reference to? | She calls time a ‘fleeting, inexhaustible thing’. She is talking about giving people a chance and her determination to let go of her own anger and try to find the good in the world. | pp. 296-297 1 mark for exact correct phrase and 1 mark for a reference |