The following is from a 1950's home economics textbook intended for high school girls, teaching them how to prepare for married life:



1. Have dinner ready: Plan ahead, even the night before, to have a delicious meal - on time. This is a way of letting him know that you have been thinking about him, and are concerned about his needs. Most men are hungry when they come home and the prospects of a good meal are part of the warm welcome needed.
2. Prepare yourself: Take 15 minutes to rest so you will be refreshed when he arrives. Touch up your makeup, put a ribbon in your hair and be fresh looking. He has just been with a lot of work-weary people. Be a little gay and a little more interesting. His boring day may need a lift.
3. Clear away the clutter. Make one last trip through the main part of the house just before your husband arrives, gathering up school books, toys, paper, etc. Then run a dust cloth over the tables. Your husband will feel he has reached a haven of rest and order, and it will give you a lift, too.
4. Prepare the children: Take a few minutes to wash the children's hands and faces if they are small, comb their hair, and if necessary, change their clothes. They are little treasures and he would like to see them playing the part.
5. Minimize the noise: At the time of his arrival, eliminate all noise of washer, dryer, dishwasher or vacuum. Try to encourage the children to be quiet. Be happy to see him. Greet him with a warm smile and be glad to see him.
6. Some Don'ts: Don't greet him with problems or complaints. Don't complain if he's late for dinner. Count this as minor compared with what he might have gone through that day.
7. Make him comfortable: Have him lean back in a comfortable chair or suggest he lie down in the bedroom. Have a cool or warm drink ready for him. Arrange his pillow and offer to take off his shoes. Speak in a low, soft, soothing and pleasant voice. Allow him to relax and unwind.
8. Listen to him: You may have a dozen things to tell him, but the moment of his arrival is not the time. Let him talk first.
9. Make the evening his: Never complain if he does not take you out to dinner or to other places of entertainment; instead, try to understand his world of strain and pressure, his need to be home and relax.
10. The goal: Try to make your home a place of peace and order where your husband can relax.

Questions to Consider

1.     How has cultured change from the 1950s to today?

2.     What was the role of the women in 1950s?

3.     How does this role reflect societal values of the 1950s?

**"DO’s and DON'TS":**

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| *Do’s*  | *Dont's*  |
| Accept him at face value.  | Don't try to change him.  |
| Admire the manly things about him.  | Don't show indifference, contempt, or ridicule towards his masculine abilities, achievements or ideas.  |
| Recognize his superior strength and ability.  | Don't try to excel him in anything which requires masculine ability.  |
| Be a Domestic Goddess.  | Don't let the outside world crowd you for time to do your homemaking tasks well.  |
| Work for inner happiness and seek to understand its rules.  | Don't have a lot of preconceived ideas of what you want out of life.  |
| Revere your husband and honor his right to rule you and your children.  | Don't stand in the way of his decisions, or his law. |