There is little difference of meaning between *which* and *what* in most cases.

**Which** is the largest city in the world? OR **What** is the largest city in the world?  
*which / what* color do you like?  
**Which people / what people** have influenced you in your life?

Note that *which* is preferred when the speaker thinks of a limited number of choices.

We have got white and brown rice. **Which** will you have? (More natural than *what will you have?*. Here the number of choices is limited.)  
**Which** teacher do you like best? (Limited because you can’t normally have an unlimited number of teachers.)  
**Which** color do you want – white, black or brown?  
**Which** language is the easiest to learn – English or German?

When the speaker has an unlimited number of choices in the mind, *what* is preferred.

**What** language do they speak in Albania?  
**What** is your phone number?

When used with nouns, *which* and *what* can be used to talk about both people and things.

**What writer** do you like best?  
**Which color** do you want – pink or purple?

Before a noun with a determiner (e.g. the, my, these etc.), we use *which of*. Note that *what* is not normally used with *of*.

**Which** of your siblings do you like best? (NOT *What of your siblings do you like best?)  
**Which** of these books are yours? (NOT *What of these books are yours?)

When these words are used without nouns they act like pronouns. Note that in such cases *who* is used for people and *which* is used for things.

But note that *which* can be used in questions about people’s identity. In the same way, *what* can be used in questions about people’s jobs.

‘**Which** is your boy?’ ‘The one in the black shirt.’  
‘**What** is your husband?’ ‘He is a teacher.’