



Popular Interview Questions – and how to answer them

Unsure what to prepare prior to the interview you have coming up?

Below you can find a list of the most frequently asked interview questions. It is often helpful to have thought through your response to these questions before attending your interview.

Why do you want to work here?

To answer this question make sure you have done some research about the company you are applying to. It is important that you explain that you understand the philosophy of the company.

What are your weaknesses?

Once you have highlighted where your weaknesses lie, make sure that you reassure your prospective employers by letting them know you are always looking to improve your areas of weakness. It is important to explain how you are seeking to improve the aspect that you struggle with.

Why should we employ you?

Tell the interviewers about your record of achievements, including your strengths.

Why do you want to work here?

As before, you need to show that you have done some research about the company you are applying to. It is useful to think about where you want to go during your career and highlight anything that is relevant to the post you are applying for. Let them know that you are very enthusiastic to join their company or organisation. At this point you can tell them what positive points you will bring to the role and organisation you are applying to, evidence this with information from your CV.

Tell me about your goals.

Where would you like to be in 1, 3, 5 years time?

Why are you leaving (or have left) your job?

This is a personal answer to you. Ensure you have thought about how you can convey this answer; perhaps ask a friend or employment advisor if they would listen to your answer to this question.

What can you offer this organisation that other candidates can't?

Highlight the strengths that you have that you feel are unique to you. Use an example of when you displayed that strength or personality/character trait.

What would your boss say are your strengths?

This is where you can 'sell yourself'. It is important that you avoid sounding arrogant. This can be done by giving examples and reasons as to why you feel that you are the correct person for the job.

Describe a time when you did not meet your goals or objectives.

The important part your answer is when you explain how you resolved the situation when you didn't meet your goals and objectives. The interviewer may be looking to hear how innovative and creative you are when faced with challenges. They often want understand how you feel and cope when you don't succeed. Make sure you explain why things went wrong, but emphasise what you learnt from the experience.

Where do you see yourself in 3 years time?

Try not to emphasise that you aspire to be in a different company in three years time. This is often an opportunity to mention that you would like to be a valued and respected member of the team you are working in. If you have any specific career objectives that relate to the job you are applying for, now is the time to mention them.

When Were You Most Satisfied in Your Job?

This question is often asked to ascertain what motivates you. Explain when you were most excited about your job. The interviewer can then see what working preferences you have.

What Are Three Positive Things Your Last Boss Would Say About You?

This is an opportunity to talk about yourself without sounding arrogant. If you can quote lines that your previous managers have said you can explain your best qualities.

What Salary Are You Seeking?

You can prepare for this question by doing some research about what people normally get paid for the job you are applying for. Jobs Centre Plus may be able to help you. Ensure that you find a salary that is paid in the local area of the job you are applying for. In London the salaries are different to those offered in Norfolk for example. You don't have to answer this question, and you could say that you would be happy to discuss this further should you progress further in the recruitment of the job.

If You Were an Animal, Which One Would You Want to Be?

This question may be asked to ascertain whether you can think quickly. Think about the impression you want to make. A mouse might make you sound passive; however a rhino may make you sound volatile and aggressive. Try to think about the impression you want to make and what type of person would be suitable for the job.

What will the main tasks and responsibilities be in this job? What do you think the main challenges will be?

Interviewers may ask this question to ascertain that you are aware of the job you are applying for. It is common for people to apply for a job without really knowing what it entails. Your answer to this question will also help interviewers to find out how much you have thought about the job and how you will respond to the challenges it may bring.

How useful was this information sheet to you? Let us know your feedback. Please contact Jobsplus@hyde-housing.co.uk

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