Prospective Interview Questions from Employers

Before you begin interviewing, think about these questions and possible responses and discuss them with a career consultant. Conduct mock interviews and be sure you can communicate clear, unrehearsed answers to interviewers. This is NOT an exhaustive list of interview questions. You should also expect questions relevant to your field/industry.

PERSONAL
1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What are your hobbies?
3. Why did you choose to interview with our organization?
4. Describe your ideal job.
5. What can you offer us?
6. What do you consider to be your greatest strengths?
7. Can you name some weaknesses?
9. Have you ever had any failures? What did you learn from them?
10. Of which three accomplishments are you most proud?
11. Who are your role models? Why?
12. How does your college education or work experience relate to this job?
13. What motivates you most in a job?
14. Have you had difficulty getting along with a former professor/supervisor/co-worker and how did you handle it?
15. Have you ever spoken before a group of people? How large?
16. Why should we hire you rather than another candidate?
17. What do you know about our organization (products or services)?
18. Where do you want to be in three years? five years? ten years?
19. Do you plan to return to school for further education?

EDUCATION
1. Why did you choose your major?
2. Why did you choose to attend your college or university?
3. Do you think you received a good education? In what ways?
4. In which campus activities did you participate?
5. Which classes in your major did you like best? Least? Why?
6. Which elective classes did you like best? Least? Why?
7. If you were to start over, what would you change about your education?
8. Do your grades accurately reflect your ability? Why or why not?

EXPERIENCE
1. What job-related skills have you developed?
2. Did you work while going to school? In what positions?
3. What did you learn from these work experiences?
4. What did you enjoy most about your last employment? Least?
5. Have you ever quit a job? Why?
6. Give an example of a situation in which you provided a solution to an employer.
7. Give an example of a time in which you worked under deadline pressure.
8. Have you ever done any volunteer work? What kind?
9. How do you think a former supervisor would describe your work?

CAREER GOALS
1. Do you prefer to work under supervision or on your own?
2. What kind of boss do you prefer?
3. Would you be successful working with a team?
4. Do you prefer large or small organizations? Why?
5. How do you feel about working in a structured environment?
6. Are you able to work on several assignments at once?
7. How do you feel about working overtime?
8. How do you feel about travel? The possibility of relocating?
9. Are you willing to work flextime?

BEHAVIORAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
1. Tell me about yourself as it relates to your career goals?
2. Describe a situation in which you were required to “think on your feet.”
3. What are the essential elements of effective problem solving?
4. Tell me about a recent problem you encountered and how you came to the solution.
5. Tell me about the last time you went the “extra mile” to do something because it was needed, even though it was not your responsibility.
6. How do you prioritize your workload?
7. Tell me about a difficult person you’ve worked with and how you approached this person.
8. What three words would your peers use to describe you and why?
9. In what instances is written communication better than verbal communication?
10. How do you manage your time when dealing with conflicting priorities?
11. Tell me about your most rewarding experience.
12. Why should we hire you?
13. What are your strengths? Weaknesses?