



TACKLING TOUGH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

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Prepare Your Answers



You never quite know for certain which questions will pop up during an interview, however, you can still prepare for them.

Questions regarding your application, current situation and future goals and ambitions are likely to arise so be ready for them.

It could be a good idea to plan ahead and prepare notes for your interview, ensuring you are well prepared. You don't want a script in the interview, but by taking notes, you will be prepared for certain questions.

Clear and precise answers will show your interviewer you are well prepared.

Further Preparation



As well as preparing potential answers for the interview, there is also additional preparation required in order to be fully prepared.

Do your homework

This could be worth reaching out to others about unexpected questions they've been asked. This will ensure you are prepared for all questions.

Control your nerves

Nerves during interviews are normal. However, do not let them get the best of you. Take your time whilst answering questions.

Ask for clarification

If you don't understand a question, you can always ask the interviewer to repeat the question or make it clearer. You will then be able to provide a more accurate response.

Understanding The Role



Before heading to your interview, make sure you understand the role you are applying for. Issues sometimes stem from being surprised at certain requirements or job duties.

Your potential employer will want to know why you feel the role will be good for the next stage of your career, or why perhaps you plan to leave your current position.

If you have had a similar position in the past, provide examples of achievements or demonstrate your problem-solving abilities and how you would tackle certain challenges in the position.

Strengths Vs Weaknesses



"What are your strengths and weaknesses?"

This can often be a tough question for candidates to answer, as they fear providing the wrong answer.

Try to be honest about both your strengths and weaknesses. It's fine to acknowledge that you have weaknesses, but mention that you always address them.

By being honest about your strengths and weaknesses, this shows that you are willing to improve and take on feedback in your new role.

Highlight your strengths and speak about how you would incorporate those into your new position.

Strengths Vs Weaknesses: Examples



"What is your biggest strength?"

"I believe that my greatest strength is the ability to solve problems quickly and efficiently. I can see any given situation from multiple perspectives, which makes me uniquely qualified to complete my work even under challenging conditions."

"What weaknesses do you have?"

I tend to be overly critical of myself. Whenever I complete a project, I can't help but feel that I could have done more even if my work received a positive response. This often leads me to overwork myself and leaves me feeling burned out. Over the past few years, I've tried to take time to look at my achievements objectively and celebrate those wins. This has improved my work and my confidence.

Questions To Assess Critical Thinking



Although your CV or yourself may state that you are a critical thinker, your interviewer may want to test how you use these skills in practice.

The skills that we need in order to be able to think critically are: observation, analysis, reflection, evaluation, inference, explanation, problem solving, interpretation and decision making.

It is likely that your job role will require you to be able to analyse, problem solve, make decisions as well as justify your reasons for making those decisions.

"How do you handle disagreements with peers and coworkers?"

"Describe a time when you had to make a decision but you didn't have all the information to hand. What did you do?"

"How quickly do you make decisions, and can you describe your approach to a past decision you've made?"

Questions To Assess Effective Communication skills:



The ability to communicate effectively is important in any job role. If your role involves working in a team, being able to communicate with co-workers is vital.

Workers in the digital age must know how to effectively convey and receive messages in person as well as via phone, email, and social media.

The interview is a good chance to display your communication skills.

"Do you work well with other people?"

"Describe a difficult work situation/project and how you overcame it"

"Do you prefer to work independently or on a team?"

"What can you contribute to this company?"

"What do people most often criticise about you?"

Questions To Assess Your Personality



As well as your ability to do the role, your interviewer will want to find out more about the person they could be employing. These questions can be fun as well as serious.

Workplace culture is very important and you must be able to adapt to the way of working and work well with your colleagues.

"What are you passionate about?"

"How do you handle stress and pressure?"

"Are you easy to talk to?"

"What motivates you?"

"What hobbies or sports are you involved with outside of work, and why do you enjoy them?"

"Describe a time when you dealt with change."

"Can you tell me about a time when you failed at something?"