Sample Interview Questions

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

They really aren't interested in what you do but are trying to analyse what sort of person you are, such as 'independent' or a 'team player', 'sociable' or 'reserved' etc. Try to present yourself with a variety of interests. Sport of some description indicates that you can be part of a team. Studying or reading indicates a willingness to learn and improve yourself. A hobby indicates an independent person who does not always need company around. (Remember! There is no such thing as a right or wrong answer in this area).

**What do you know about the company?**

You need to show the interviewer that you have done some research on the company. Your ultimate goal here is to impress the interviewer with your knowledge of the company.

**What did you do at your last job?**

Here the interviewer is looking to see that the skills used in your last job can be transferred across into your new job, and also how much retraining the company will have to do. When you are answering this question you need to state what you did but also special skills awards and promotions that you received.

**What did you like least about your job?**

When answering this question try not to come across as a whinger. Talk about the lack of challenges or not utilising your skills to their potential and lack of opportunities for advancement.

**What are your main strengths and weakness?**

You need to think positively when answering this question also remembering that you are human and that we all have faults. Try and think of weaknesses that could be thought of as a positive sign, e.g. I sometimes involve myself in lots of different tasks at the same time. This could indicate that you show initiative and can multi-task.

**Why do you want this job?**

Talk about the advantages for both you and the company if you get the job.

**Why should I employer you?**

This is another opportunity to sell yourself. Summarise your personal qualities, your interests and achievements; never be negative of yourself or other applicants.

**Is there anything else I need to know about you?**

Take the opportunity here to sell yourself. State positive attributes e.g. strong communication skills, fast learner and team player.
Tell me about yourself?
Give me a rundown of who you are? What sort of person are you? What do you do with your spare time?

This question is designed to find out about you as a person and your job skills. The employer needs to know that you can do the job and get along with your co-workers. Try to include a balance of information, including such things as your experience and skills as well as information that provides a clear picture about you as a person.

Always relate personal information back to the job. Make sure that you cover work, education and personal aspects. Mention things like your interests and hobbies that may be related to the job

You can also mention things such as:
- Hobbies that are not necessarily job related to show that you get along with people, you can work in a team, that you are an interesting and well-informed person.
- Your past work experience, paid or voluntary.
- Your training and education.
- Your strong interest in working for the company and working in the type of occupation you are applying for
- Any knowledge you may have about the company

Have you ever done this type of work before?

Never say NO to this question, as no two jobs are exactly alike and you probably would not have applied for this job if you didn’t think that you could do it. This question can usually be followed by a similar one such as
- In what way have your previous jobs prepared you to take on greater job responsibility?
- What was the most difficult part of your last job?
- How does this job relate to your previous experience?

These are all common questions, and the key is to make sure that you show them you have transferable skills. State specific experiences, don’t ever undersell any study courses, or voluntary work you have done and make sure that you stress your willingness to learn and you are a quick learner.

The employer accepts that you are young and basically straight out of High School, so they are not expecting mountains of experience or an "instant fit" of you to the job at hand - but they are looking for you to demonstrate that you have SOME understanding of what the job may involve, and that you have consciously tried to measure yourself back up against that and can explain to them how you feel you can help their company by having them take you on.