# Interview Practice Questions

**--Copy this form and paste it into a word document. Save the document, answer the questions and submit to the assignment.--  
See Study notes 6 in module 6 to see how to best respond to interview questions.**   
Review these questions to prepare for future interviews. By thinking through and writing down the responses you will remember the answers better and find the most concise way to relate the information.

**Part 1a:**

**Name: Moti Begna**

**Interview Stream URL: http://umn.interviewstream.com/link/?Azz5xzgFcJBt**

**Summary of Interview paragraphs:**   
Write two paragraphs of how well you thought you did.

I believe that I was able to generally answer what the interview questions were asking for. One of the biggest difficulties during the process, however, was ensuring that my line of thinking had a logical progression to it and that I wasn’t essentially just rambling on trying to hopefully answer the question at some point. In addition, it was also hard to not say “um” from time to time during the interview, seeing as how I normally use it on a daily basis to think about what I should be saying next.

Overall, my final answers where much better than when I had not yet practiced the interview. By practicing, I was able to formulate a general guideline for how I would answer the various questions, as well as thinking about examples I could give that could really drive home the idea I wanted to convey. I will be using interview stream in the future to prepare for job interviews later down the line, seeing as how I found it really helpful in working towards answering questions effictively.

**Part 1b:** Respond to each question as specifically as you can, given that you might not yet have a specific position or company to which to tailor your answers. Write your responses as though you were responding to an interviewer. Remember to be specific with your examples and stories. **Refer to the** **Module learning material and Typical Interview Questions** in the study notes for tips on how to answer many of these questions.

1. Tell me about yourself.

Currently, I am a junior at the University of Minnesota studying Computer Science in the College of Science and Engineering. I also work as a customer service representative for Best Buy, as well as an IT coordinator in a University Apartment. In my free time, I like to engage in physical exercise as much as I can, as well as read philosophy books whenever I get the chance since philosophical ideas really interest me.

2. Where do you see yourself in five years?

In five years, I plan to be working as a software engineer for a large technology company working on various projects that make an impact in our world. I hope to be working with the team that that I can rely on and enjoy being a part of, as well as perhaps leading.

3. What is your greatest strength?

One of my greatest strengths is my ability to utilize all of the different tools I have gained throughout my education and experience in order to solve some sort of problem. I take the time to research something to fully have an understanding of an issue before I try to tackle it head-on.

4. What is your greatest weakness?

My greatest weakness is that I can sometimes get very focused on a single task for a long time, when it might be more beneficial for me to take a step back and come back to it with a different perspective.

5. Tell me about a time when you faced a difficult situation.

During one of my shifts working as an office assistant at my university apartment, a resident came up to me asking for a package that had been delivered to the building which she was notified for by email. Normally, when a package gets processed in our system, our mail-room employee has to first ensure that the recipient of the package actually lives in the apartment. While I was able to confirm that the resident lived in the building, I was unable to find the package that she was looking for. I searched every place that I could think of to no avail, and was frustrated with the fact that I wasn’t able to find the residents package assuming that she would be rightfully upset that we had misplaced it somewhere. It took some time to realize that she was an international student, so it was possible that she might have used a different name when she ordered her item. I was able to confirm this, and eventually we found out that the package was returned to the sender. I took this opportunity to explain how the process works for deliveries in the apartment so that future issues wouldn’t arise.

6. Tell me about a time when you were bored on the job.

Working in customer service at Best Buy can get hectic really fast, but at the same time there are moments where there are no clients and costumers to help when days are slow. I like to take this free time to get ahead on my closing duties such as restocking and cleaning my work station.

7. Tell me about a time when people didn’t see things your way.

One of the policies at Best Buy is that if you are recycling a TV there is a 25$ charge to do so. One time, a customer came into our store hoping to recycle her TV, but was upset to find that there was a fee, and so she decided that she wouldn’t recycle. She ended up walking around the store for a while, but left her TV at the customer service desk claiming that she would come back for it. While everyone was saying that we should just let it go if she ends up leaving without her TV, I did not see it that way. And so, as she was about to leave the store, I confronted her to remind her to take the TV, which she ended up doing. Personally, if there is some protocol that I have to follow, I can’t sit back as I am told to not follow it.

8. Tell me about a time when you faced competing priorities.

As any college student can attest to, there are weeks where we have multiple assignments, projects, and tests occurring within a short period of time. Last semester, I had two midterms and a project that I had to prepare for within the span of a week. It was difficult for me to figure out which one that I should prioritize more, but eventually I ended up going through the gravity of each of them to figure out their own individual weight based on my current knowledge and the time it would take to finish them.

9. How do you establish working relationships with people?

To establish a working relationship with people, I usually try to be the person that can be there for others when they have questions and/or are confused about something. I find that relationships work best when you can be a reliable source of contact for others, and so I never hesitate to lend a helping hand.

10. What single project or task would you consider the most significant accomplishment in your career or life so far?

Last year, I created a python program which allows users to get information from past NCAA Tournaments spanning 1985-2018 using the Pandas Library to organize large datasets. Examples include the history of a team's wins/losses, past NCAA champions, and winners of the Most Outstanding Player Award. The reason I hold this project dear to me is the fact that I was able to create something that I thoroughly enjoyed on my own after a long time of teaching myself different coding techniques.

**PART TWO:** Remember that job interviewing is a two-way-street. By asking questions, you can get a much better sense of the organization and the extent to which you’d want to work there. Below, list a minimum of five questions that you would ask at an interview.

1. From your experience, what is the culture of the company like?

2. Are there opportunities for lateral movement in the company?

3. What are the career paths that someone in this position usually takes?

4. What do you think are important skills of someone in this position?

5. What are the next steps in the hiring process?