**Common questions asked in an interview**

Interviews can be tough for freshers as they would not have experience in facing them. However, freshers can still prepare themselves with some common questions that are expected. In this topic, we are going to explore some of those questions one by one.

1. What are your strengths?

The recruiter is looking at how your skills can be effective for the job role that you are applying for. This question is an opportunity for you to prove yourself valuable to the company.

Sample answer 1

My strength is to think about the result when I work on a task. If working on a project I like to focus on what changes/benefits/results it can bring to the society, what challenges we can come across and think of the solutions to plan work accordingly.

Sample answer 2

One of my greatest strengths is being proactive. When I am working on a project, I prefer to ask a lot of questions. I also not only think of the next steps but also keep them prepared. I like to plan and complete tasks before they are due.

Sample answer 3

I am an efficient team player and that's my strength. I like to coordinate with respective members in the team and keep them informed about the status of any project that I am doing. I also like to offer help proactively to anyone who needs it.

1. What are your weaknesses?

The recruiter wants to know how aware you are about your improvement areas and also what you are doing about it. Ensure what you mention does not collide with the role. Look at the job description to find out. For example, if you are applying for a JAVA Developer then do not say that you are poor in JAVA programming. Always mention the actions you are taking to work on your weakness.

Sample answer 1

I am soft by nature. Currently, I am working on being more assertive and firmer.

Sample answer 2

I have difficulty in saying no to people’s ask so I end up inconveniencing myself time and again. Currently, I am working on this by trying to provide an alternative solution to the person who comes to me. Like, if someone wants me to help them in their project and I am busy, then I offer to talk to them at a later time.

1. Why should we hire you? or why are you the best candidate for this role?

The recruiter is giving you an opportunity to prove that you are fit for the role. Do not say vague things like I am hard working, sincere, etc. Always tell them how you can be useful to the organization.

Sample answer 1

I am proficient in SQL which is one of the main skills required for data analyst. My technical knowledge is also perfectly aligned with the job description (pls read the JD beforehand). I also plan to learn a lot of concepts quickly and excel at tasks given to me. I also keep my technical knowledge up to date from time to time. Hence, I am confident that I will be able to add a lot of value to this role and company.

Sample answer 2

I am proficient in JAVA which is the main requirement for this role. I am keen on learning new things so I plan to bring myself up to par with what is expected from this role in the first 3 months. I would like to be a team player and help others whenever needed.

If you are comfortable, also add-

I would like to be a team player and help others whenever needed. This would keep me and others around motivated.

1. Where do you see yourself in 5 years from now?

Recruiter wants to see if your future plan is in line with the company goals. This is also to check your stability for the job. Please avoid responding like I want to open my own business/restaurant, I want to pursue M. Tech, I want to go abroad, etc. which could show that you are not going to be around in this role for a long time and is likely to quit soon.

Sample answer 1

Apart from having learnt a lot of things technology wise and having completed a lot of projects, I see that I would learn key soft skills for growth such as assertive skills, leadership skills, time management, etc. I see that I would be promoted by 2 levels from the level I entered. I also see that I would be earning 5 times of what I would be offered in my first role.

Sample answer 2

5 years from now, I see that I would have become an expert in programming languages and also would have developed good knowledge on any upcoming technologies at that time. I also expect myself to be at a higher position over these years in a leadership role.

1. What are your salary expectations?

Recruiter wants to know if your expectation is within their budget.

Sample answer 1

Since I am a fresher, I would like my salary to be as per the industry/company standards.

Sample answer 2

According to the data in [Ambitionbox.com](https://www.ambitionbox.com/salaries), I see that your company gives an average of 4.5 Lacs to ‘state the role’ example: fresher analysts. So, my expectation would be the same. (Please check the data on this website before your interview. You can also use [Glassdoor](https://www.glassdoor.co.in/Salaries/index.htm) to find out salaries given by companies.) Never give a range as the recruiter will always consider the lower one. Always give a figure.

1. Why do you want to join this company?

Recruiter is looking to find what you are expecting from the company in terms of job environment and satisfaction. Do not say things like it is nearby or it pays more salary.

Sample answer 1

I have some of my friends working in this company and I have heard good reviews from them. I have heard that it is a great place to work and the leaders are motivating.

Sample answer 2

I know that you are a brand in the industry with a lot of business opportunities. I have gone through your official website. I have also seen some great reviews on Ambitionbox and Glassdoor on employee engagement. (Please make sure you do this research before your interview) I would love to start my career in such an organization for my betterment.

1. Why are you changing your field?

Recruiter asks this question when your degree is not in-line with the role. They want to ensure if you are sure about your change of mind and would be stable if offered a job. Please do not say that there is no scope in your current field and this is why you are changing it. As this would show them that you have not looked enough in your original field when you have just started.

Sample answer

My degree is in mechanical/civil/electronics/aeronautical etc. But when I was pursuing my degree, I came across some IT related topics which my friends were studying in the IT stream. My interest in those topics kept growing. I started researching about job (please keep some research points ready if the interviewer asks) and growth prospects in this field and found that the IT field has great future. Hence, I decided to switch my career.

1. What questions do you have for us?

Before closing the interview meeting, the recruiter wants to know if you have any doubts and that you have understood your job role. Please do not ask questions like – what salary will I get (this can be later discussed with the HR), will I have work from home or will have night of day shift. These questions would show that you are looking for a comfort zone. Also, please avoid saying that you do not have any questions. Please pick any 2 questions from the below sample to ask the interviewer. This will show that you are looking for a career growth in their company.

Sample answers

1. What does a typical day for someone in this role looks like?
2. What are your expectations from someone in this role for the first 3 months?
3. What are the growth opportunities for someone who has completed 1 year in your company?
4. What does it take for somebody in this role to be successful?
5. For someone to grow in this company, what kind of qualities are required?
6. How is success measured in this role?
7. Can you talk a little bit about the culture of your organization?
8. What kind of advice do you give a fresher starting their career in this company?
9. What kind of trainings you provide to the freshers joining your company?
10. What are the biggest challenges that someone in this position would face?
11. Tell us about a difficult situation that you have handled successfully.

Recruiter wants to know how you handle challenges and road blocks. So, describe a scenario where you faced a difficult situation and were able to come up with a positive outcome.

Sample answer 1

I was put in a group to complete a college project. There were two group members who did not get along well and argued unnecessarily with each other. This led to wastage of time for the entire group. The project deadline was about to be affected. I arranged a casual meeting with both of them and initiated a friendly conversation. I pointed out that both of them were uniquely talented and our team would be benefited if we worked along with each other rather than against each other. If the project deadline is not met than it would be everyone’s loss. Moreover, we would be working together only during the project for a short period of time. Both of them realized that their arguments were affecting the project. From next day onwards, they came to work together as a team and we were able to submit our work within the deadline.

Sample answer 2

I was unable to understand one of the topics (please be prepared with a topic) in my engineering curriculum. This topic was important from the examination point of view which was nearby and I did not have much time. I was nervous that I was not prepared enough. One of my college seniors lived in my neighbourhood. He was good in studies. I approached him and asked him to help me understand this topic. I spent a week before the exams with him to prepare this topic. When the results came out, I got good marks in this topic.

1. Why is there a gap in your education/employment history?

Sample answer 1

One of my family members had health issues, so I had to stay at home to look after him/her. Now that he/she is doing better, I have decided to look for a job without wasting time.

Sample answer 2

I had to support my father to run his business/farming for sometime as there was nobody to help him. Now that we have got someone to take care of that, I have decided to look for a job without wasting time.

Note – In case your reason is different from the ones given above, please discuss this answer with your soft skills mentor.