

How to Answer The Toughest Interview Questions Part-3: -

CURATED BY- HIMANSHU KUMAR (LINKEDIN)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/himanshukumarmahuri>

QUESTIONS OF PART 3: -

Q21 Would you lie for the company?

Q22 Looking back, what would you do differently in your life?

Q23 Could you have done better in your last job?

Q24 Can you work under pressure?

Q25 What makes you angry?

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Question 21 *Would you lie for the company?*

TRAPS: This another question that pits two values against one another, in this case loyalty against integrity.

BEST ANSWER: Try to avoid choosing between two values, giving a positive statement which covers all bases instead.

Example: "I would never do anything to hurt the company."

If aggressively pressed to choose between two competing values, *always choose personal integrity*. It is the most prized of all values.

Question 22 *Looking back, what would you do differently in your life?*

TRAPS: This question is usually asked to uncover any life-influencing mistakes, regrets, disappointments, or problems that may continue to affect your personality and performance.

You do not want to give the interviewer anything negative to remember you by, such as some great personal or career disappointment, even long ago, that you wish could have been avoided.

Nor do you wish to give any answer which may hint that your whole heart and soul will not be in your work.

BEST ANSWER: Indicate that you are a happy, fulfilled, optimistic person and that, in general, you wouldn't change a thing.

Example: "It's been a good life, rich in learning and experience, and the best it yet to come. Every experience in life is a lesson it its own way. I wouldn't change a thing."

Question 23 *Could you have done better in your last job?*

TRAPS: This is no time for true confessions of major or even minor problems.

BEST ANSWER: Again, *never be negative*.

Example: "I suppose with the benefit of hindsight you can always find things to do better, of course, but off the top of my head, I can't think of anything of major consequence."

(If more explanation seems necessary)

Describe a situation that didn't suffer because of you but from external conditions beyond your control.

For example, describe the disappointment you felt with a test campaign, new product launch, merger, etc., which looked promising at first, but led to underwhelming results. "I wish we could have known at the start what we later found out (about the economy turning, the marketplace changing, etc.), but since we couldn't, we just had to go for it. And we did learn from it..."

Question 24 *Can you work under pressure?*

TRAPS: An easy question, but you want to make your answer *believable*.

BEST ANSWER: Absolutely... (then prove it with a vivid example or two of a goal or projects accomplished under severe pressure.)

Question 25 *What makes you angry?*

TRAPS: You don't want to come across either as a hothead or a wimp.

BEST ANSWER: Give an answer that's suited to both your personality and the management style of the firm. Here, the homework you've done about the company and its style can help in your choice of words.

Examples: If you are a reserved person and/or the corporate culture is coolly professional:

"I'm an even-tempered and positive person by nature, and I believe this helps me a great deal in keeping my department running smoothly, harmoniously and with a genuine *esprit de corps*. I believe in communicating clearly what's expected, getting people's commitment to those goals, and then following up continuously to check progress."

"If anyone or anything is going off track, I want to know about it early. If, after that kind of open communication and follow up, someone isn't getting the job done, I'll want to know why."

If there's no good reason, then I'll get impatient and angry...and take appropriate steps from there. But if you hire good people, motivate them to strive for excellence and then follow up constantly, it almost never gets to that state."

If you are feisty by nature and/or the position calls for a tough straw boss.

"You know what makes me angry? People who (the fill in the blanks with the most objectionable traits for this type of position) ... people who don't pull their own weight, who are negative, people who lie...etc."

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