

Machinist Interview Questions

1. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?
2. Tell me about a recent experience you've had working with your hands.
3. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
4. Describe methods you have found effective to inspect sample workpieces to verify conformance with specifications, using instruments such as gauges, micrometers, and dial indicators.
5. Walk me through how you would study blueprints, layouts or charts, and job orders for information on specifications and tooling instructions, and to determine material requirements and operational sequences.
6. How do you stay fit in order to perform physical activities that are required in the workplace?
7. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
8. What have you found to be the best system to start lath or turning machines and observe operations to ensure that specifications are met?
9. What is the most challenging part of adjusting machine controls and changing tool settings in order to keep dimensions within specified tolerances?
10. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
11. What kind of experience do you have selecting cutting tools and tooling instructions, according to written specifications or knowledge of metal properties and shop mathematics?
12. Name a time when you cranked machines through cycles, stopping to adjust tool positions and machine controls to ensure specified timing, clearances, and tolerances.
13. Share an effective approach to position, secure, and align cutting tools in toolholders on machines, using

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hand tools, and verify their positions with measuring instruments.

14. How would you move toolholders manually or by turning handwheels, or engage automatic feeding mechanisms to feed tools to and along workpieces?

15. What is the most challenging part of computing unspecified dimensions and machine settings, using knowledge of metal properties and shop mathematics?

16. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

17. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

18. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, or tested a machine or device that operates mainly by mechanical principles.

19. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

20. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.

21. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)

22. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

23. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

24. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.

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25. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

26. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

27. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

28. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

29. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

30. Share an experience in which you conducted a test of a product, service, or process and successfully improved the quality or performance.

31. Describe an experience in which you successfully controlled the operation of a difficult system. What made you successful?

32. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

33. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

34. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

35. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

36. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

37. Tell me about your qualifications for and your experience handling vehicles and/or mechanized equipment.

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38. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

39. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?

40. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?

41. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)