

Woodworking Machinist Interview Questions

1. What kind of experience do you have establishing the specifications of articles to be constructed or repaired or plan the methods or operations for shaping or assembling parts, based on blueprints, drawings, diagrams, or oral or written instructions?

2. Name a time when you produced or assembled components of articles, such as store fixtures, office equipment, cabinets, or high-grade furniture.

3. Walk me through how you set up or operate machines, including power saws, jointers, mortisers, tenoners, molders, or shapers, to cut, mold, or shape woodstock or wood substitutes.

4. Tell me about a recent experience you've had working with your hands.

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

6. How do you stay fit in order to perform physical activities that are required in the workplace?

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

8. Have you ever designed furniture, using computer-aided drawing programs? If so, share an example.

9. What is the most challenging part of discussing projects with customers, and draw up detailed specifications? Share an experience.

10. Tell me how you estimate the amounts, types, or costs of needed materials.

11. What method do you use to verify dimensions or check the quality or fit of pieces to ensure adherence to specifications?

12. Tell me about the last time you measured and marked dimensions of parts on paper or lumber stock prior to cutting, following blueprints, to ensure a tight fit and quality product.

13. What kind of experience do you have programming computers to operate machinery? Share an example.

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14. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

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

16. Tell me how you match materials for color, grain, or texture, giving attention to knots or other features of the wood.

17. 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.)

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

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 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.)

21. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

22. 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.)

23. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

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

25. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

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26. Share an experience in which you oversaw the assembly, fabrication, construction, maintenance, or modification of equipment. How did you communicate to the staff what you wanted?

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

28. Describe a time when you were able to select the best tool to do a job. How did you use reasoning skills to make the best choice?

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

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

31. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?

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

33. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

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

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

36. Tell me about the last time you performed routine maintenance on equipment. How did you determine when and what type of work was needed?

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

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38. Tell me about your last experience doing repair work. How did you determine what tools you needed?

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

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

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

42. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?

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