

Machine Operator Interview Questions

1. Share an effective approach to verify conformance of machined work to specifications, using measuring instruments, such as calipers, micrometers, or fixed or telescoping gauges.

2. What kind of experience do you have studying machining instructions, job orders, or blueprints to determine dimensional or finish specifications, sequences of operations, setups, or tooling requirements?

3. Tell me how you select and set cutting speeds, feed rates, depths of cuts, and cutting tools, according to machining instructions or knowledge of metal properties.

4. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?

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

6. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.

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

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

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

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

11. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)

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

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

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14. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
15. Share an effective method to lay out reference lines and machining locations on work, using layout tools, and applying knowledge of shop math and layout techniques.
16. Walk me through how you lift workpieces onto work tables either manually or with hoists or direct crane operators to lift and position workpieces.
17. What is the most challenging part of observing drilling or boring machine operations to detect any problems?
18. What have you found to be the best way to establish zero reference points on workpieces, such as at the intersections of two edges or over hole locations?
19. What kind of experience do you have operating single- or multiple-spindle drill presses to bore holes so that machining operations can be performed on metal or plastic workpieces?
20. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
21. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
22. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?
23. 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.)
24. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
25. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to

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determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

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

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

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

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

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