Machinist Interview Questions

1. Tell me about a recent experience you've had working with your hands.
2. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you
identify a problem or the cause of a problem.
3. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you
respond?
4. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the
candidate has open lines of communication.)
5. Describe methods you have found effective to inspect, test, and adjust completed units to ensure that units
meet specifications, tolerances, and customer order requirements.
6. Share an effective process to position, align, and adjust parts for proper fit and assembly.
7. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
8. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the
candidate is dependable.)
9. What system have you found effective to attach name plates and mark identifying information on parts?
10. Walk me through how you read blueprints and specifications to determine component parts and assembly
sequences of electromechanical units.
11. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine
which information was relevant?
12. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
13. 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.)

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14. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
15. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What
helped you succeed?
16. What is the most challenging part of measuring parts to determine tolerances, using precision measuring
instruments such as micrometers, calipers, and verniers?
17. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?
18. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to somone's needs or feelings. How did your
helpfulness affect your work environment?
19. 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.)
20. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
21. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change?
(Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
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 when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
24. What kind of experience do you have drilling, tapping, reaming, countersink, and spot-face bolt holes in
parts, using drill presses and portable power drills?
25. 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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26. Share an experience in which you conducted a test of a product, service, or process and successfully
improved the quality or performance.
27. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
28. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
29. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your
company?
30. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.