

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

4. Walk me through how you would remove workpieces from machines, and check to ensure that they conform to specifications, using measuring instruments such as microscopes, gauges, calipers, and micrometers.

5. What have you found to be the best way to observe milling or planing machine operation and adjust controls to ensure conformance with specified tolerances? Share an example.

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

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

8. Share your approach to study blueprints, layouts, sketches, or work orders to assess workpiece specifications and to determine tooling instructions, tools and materials needed, and sequences of operations.

9. What factors do you consider when you compute dimensions, tolerances, and angles of workpieces or machines, according to specifications and knowledge of metal properties and shop mathematics?

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

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

12. What is the most challenging part of selecting cutting speeds, feed rates, and depths of cuts, applying knowledge of metal properties and shop mathematics?

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13. What kind of experience do you have selecting and installing the correct cutting tools and other accessories according to specifications, using hand tools or power tools?

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

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

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

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

18. Name a time when you mounted attachments and tools such as pantographs, engravers, or routers to perform other operations such as drilling or boring.

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

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

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

22. 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.)

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. 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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25. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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

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

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

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

30. 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?