

Pottery Machine Operator Interview Questions

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

2. Name a time when you prepared work for sale or exhibition, and maintain relationships with retail, pottery, art, and resource networks that can facilitate sale or exhibition of work.

3. Walk me through how you would mix and apply glazes, and load glazed pieces into kilns for firing.

4. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

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

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

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

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

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

10. Share your approach to adjust wheel speeds according to the feel of the clay as pieces enlarge and walls become thinner.

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

12. Share an example when you successfully raised and shaped clay into wares such as vases and pitchers, on revolving wheels, using hands, fingers, and thumbs.

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

14. What kind of experience do you have designing clay forms and molds, and decorations for forms?

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

16. Describe methods you have found helpful to examine finished ware for defects and measure dimensions, using rule and thickness gauge.

17. Name a time when you operated drying chambers to dry or finish molded ceramic ware.

18. Walk me through how you would perform test-fires of pottery to determine how to achieve specific colors and textures.

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

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

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

22. What is the most challenging part of starting machine units and conveyors and observing lights and gauges on panel-board to verify operational efficiency?

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

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

25. Share your approach to adjust pressures, temperatures, and trimming tool settings as required.

26. Describe an experience when you operated pug mills to blend and extrude clay.

27. Tell me how you effectively verify accuracy of shapes and sizes of objects, using calipers and templates.

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28. Walk me through how to operate jigger machines to form ceramic ware, such as bowls, cups, plates, and saucers.

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

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