

Sample Interview Questions & Preparation Information

Please tell us why you are interested in joining our summer internship program.

Why are you interested in the ?? industry for a career or for an internship?

Do you have questions about our _____ and the program you applied for?

Other Common Interview Questions or Open-ended Reply Statements

Please tell me about yourself.

Do you have any work experience?

What are your favorite classes?

What are your favorite subjects?

What are your career goals?

From Indeed.com

Interviewing is an important step in the process of being admitted/awarded to school, awards, scholarships, etc. The interview process gives the interviewer the chance to assess your interpersonal skills. A face-to-face meeting (or Zoom, Skype, etc...) allows them to assess the level of confidence with which you carry yourself and evaluate your body language as you respond. Being able to walk confidently into an interview requires thoughtful preparation. Below are common high school interview questions, after which there is guidance on how you should respond to some common questions and provide sample answers to help guide your responses.

Related: How to Prepare for an Interview

General Questions

These questions help an interviewer understand your personality and background.

- Tell me about your family.
- How would you describe yourself?
- What do you enjoy reading outside of school?
- Why are you interested in our _____?
- What are you passionate about?
- What is your greatest strength and weakness?
- What subject do you enjoy the most and why?
- What subject do you like the least and why?
- What makes you unique?
- What extracurricular activities are you interested in?

Questions about Experience and Background

These questions help an interviewer decide whether your values match with those of the private school.

- How do you handle stress and pressure?
- What motivates you?
- What do you think you might study in college?
- In what ways have your experiences prepared you to attend this _____?
- What talents and gifts can you bring to our _____?
- Who are people you most admire? Why?
- Do you know what you want to be when you get older?
- What memorable cultural experiences have you had?
- Do you currently hold a leadership position at your school?
- Are you involved with any community service projects? What have you learned?

In-depth Questions

These questions are intended to give the interviewer a more in-depth look at who you are.

- How do you evaluate success?
- What do you think is the most important thing you can learn in school?
- What is your current school like? What do you like and what would you change (about your school)?
- Have you ever had trouble communicating with a coach or teacher? If so, what did you do?
- How will you benefit from attending this _____?
- If your best friend asked if they could copy your homework, what would you do?
- Have you ever had conflicts at school? If so, how did you deal with them?
- How have you recovered from a disappointment or setback?
- If you had one wish, what would it be?
- If you could meet one person in history, who would it be and why?

How to Appear Confident in an Interview

Remember that the interviewer is not only interested in the content of your answers, but also in your ability to be confident, clear and engaging during the interview. Don't worry, interviews are often short conversations from 10 minutes to longer periods of time.

Tell us about what you do outside of school.

Jobs and internships are often looking for well-rounded candidates. You should be prepared to speak eloquently about something that's of interest to you outside of academics, whether it's sports, music, or drama. **A good answer should also include whether you intend to continue that interest. You could also answer this question by sharing a new interest.**

Example: "I recently became interested in photography. I've taken some online workshops outside of school and then, most recently, have been volunteering my time at a local animal rescue, taking photos for the organization's social media sites."

What is an obstacle you've faced and how did you get through it?

Interviewers want to know if you've overcome any obstacles and check your determination and persistence in overcoming them. A great answer to this question shares a time you faced a problem that challenged you and required you to put in significant effort to resolve. It could be related to school, your home life or an extracurricular. Describe the scenario briefly but spend the majority of your response emphasizing what you did to overcome the obstacle.

Example: "Last year I started playing on the soccer team. Unfortunately, during our third game, I injured myself and at first, it seemed like I was going to have to sit out the rest of the year. However, I talked to my physical therapist and together we came up with a plan to rehab my knee more quickly. It took a lot of work and fighting through the pain initially, but after several months I was able to return and play the last part of the season in a different position. I was thrilled to just be back on the field."

Tell us about an accomplishment that has made you feel especially proud.

While the answer to this can be academic, it doesn't have to be. It could be that you've written your own music, coordinated a successful fundraiser or even just helped a family member in need. **A great answer will highlight your passion and why you were motivated to excel in this situation.**

Example: "I was part of the Spanish club in my last school. We wanted to take a trip to the Mexican peninsula and stay with families there to fully immerse ourselves in the culture. We coordinated a number of fundraisers, from selling Spanish cookbooks that we made ourselves to selling chili at basketball games. The hard work paid off and we were able to pay for our trip!"