



Challenging questions frequently asked in interviews

- Why are you the **best candidate**?
- Tell me **about yourself**.
- Tell me about your **background**.
- What do you consider to be your three **greatest strengths/achievements**?
- What are your **strengths** and **weaknesses**?
- What are your **areas of development** (or weaknesses) and what action have you taken to address them?
- What are you doing to **upgrade your skills**?
- What do you **enjoy/dislike** about your job?
- If I were to call your manager, **how would he/she describe you**?
- How would you describe the **relationship** with your **manager**?
- What is the **biggest mistake** you have ever made?
- Why do you want to **leave your** current **job**?
- Why did you **leave** your **previous position**?

Notes

Questions you may ask at the end of an interview

- How is the **atmosphere** in the team?
- What aspects of this position need **immediate attention**?
- What are the **challenges** facing this position?
- Who would I be **reporting to**?
- What does a **typical day/week** on this job look like?

Notes

Exercise: dealing with challenging questions

Write down the answer to the questions below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why are you the best candidate? • Tell me about yourself. • Tell me about your background. 	<p>Write down any <u>relevant information</u> regarding the Job Opening on the <u>3 areas</u> below:</p> <p>1. Your academic background</p> <p>2. Your job experience</p> <p>3. Three skills, competencies or strengths</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your strengths and weaknesses? <p><i>Strength: a quality used in a favourable context vs.</i> <i>Weakness: a strength used in an unfavourable context</i></p>	<p>Write a strength and identify a context where your strength becomes a weakness.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Strength</u> </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center; vertical-align: top;"> <u>Context where</u> <u>my strength becomes a weakness</u> </td> </tr> </table>	<u>Strength</u>	<u>Context where</u> <u>my strength becomes a weakness</u>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your areas of development (or weaknesses) and what action have you taken to address them? • What are you doing to upgrade your skills? 	<p>Write down a skill, competency or area of work that you are <u>presently improving</u> (explain what you are doing).</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would your manager describe you? • How would your colleagues describe you? 	<p>Write down <u>3 adjectives</u> that your manager/colleagues would say about your work, performance, personality, etc.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How would you describe the relationship with your manager? 	<p>Write down <u>3 adjectives</u> that would describe your relationship with your manager.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do you want to leave your current job? • Why did you leave (do you want to leave) your position? 	<p>Write a reason why you are <u>motivated to look for a new job</u>.</p>		