**Dealing with Tricky Interview Questions!**

We all know how difficult and nerve-wracking interviews can be, and what’s worse than the seemingly random questions that you can’t prepare for? Well here’s a list of questions we have seen/heard/experienced at some point that we thought would be great to share with you, and show you how we would answer.

**How is your degree relevant?**

Begin by stating your degree and what grade you received (they should already know this info from your CV, but it confirms the information). DELVE DEEPER; think about what modules you studied or what skills you achieved whilst taking part in certain tasks, i.e. if you did a presentation, a project or a particular placement alongside your degree that may be relevant for the role you’re applying for. The main thing is to not look at just your degree title, think deeper and think about what you really did/do day-to-day.

**What are your strengths and weaknesses?**

It’s a classic so this is one you should be prepared for! Make sure the strengths you choose are relevant to the role you are applying for. For example, if the role involves lots of numerical analysis, then highlight that you are good with numbers and have attention to detail.

Weaknesses are more challenging as it can be very hard to analyse yourself, so try approaching this by thinking of something you WERE weak at but have since IMPROVED. For example: ‘I can find it hard to relax once I’m home and I continue thinking about work. However, now I make sure I’m fully organised and wrap things up where I can before I leave.’

**Why should we hire you?**

Highlight your skills; try not to repeat if you’ve already been asked questions about yourself. Think of how your skills are relatable and translatable for the role, i.e. ‘my communication skills and confidence will help as I will be able to take control of situations and have conversations with clients.’

**Where do you want to be in X amount of years?**

The dream is no doubt you’d like to be sat in your yacht in the Caribbean Sea, but reality is that you will probably want to achieve the utmost that you can in whatever position you’re in. The key is to do your research, study the job you are applying for in detail and try relate something to that, for example if you’re starting as an Account Executive or Junior, to state that you would like to be in an Account Management role and confidently hitting your targets.

A very common answer is saying you want to be in the seat of the person interviewing you, some people like this but some absolutely hate it – so try and evaluate your interviewer/s before you answer.

**Why do you want to leave your current job?**

Always give positive reasons for joining a company rather than negative reasons for leaving. It could be that you are leaving because you have fallen out with someone at work, but you really don’t want to be that honest! Think about what the new company can offer that your current company can’t e.g. “I’m looking for an organisation which can support my further study”. You can say you were looking for something more suitable for you (then go on to explain why this role is more suitable).

Obviously if there’s another valid reason i.e. relocation, then explain!

**You graduated 3 years ago why are you applying for an internship now?**

This is major – make sure to explain any gaps in employment i.e. if you were travelling or working abroad that should all be on your CV! If you have just been working for a few years after you graduated, explain exactly your intentions, for example if you are looking for something different, a new path and you thought this internship might be a great start!

**What did you like least/most about your previous job?**

Okay, awkward question. Try and handle this professionally, don’t shout out how you hated so-and-so. If you’re going into a role where there is huge room for growth, explain how your last job was stagnant and you couldn’t go anywhere in the role (because then that adds another reason why you want this job, hurray!)

Just be honest with what you liked most, if it was your colleagues, you can say that as it will show great team ethic and likeability (reassuring that you won’t turn in to a monster once you’re hired!) It’s testing your suitability to the current role. If you say you loved being customer facing and you’re going for a customer facing role then that’s a box ticked already.

Likewise with what you liked least, do your research and don’t say that you hated being stuck in an office, if you’re going for an office based role.

**How would your mum/previous boss/best friend describe you?**

These questions give a really good insight into your personality and how you react in different situations. Don’t be afraid to tell them the truth.

One of our team’s examples is from a friend. Her friend that she worked with at a summer camp calls her, her ‘little blue friend’. This is because at camp they used colours as a form of understanding each other’s personalities as an exercise in staff training. Blue means an emotional person, where things really matter, and emotions are always shown. This is a nice insight in to personality, experience and short anecdotes can make the interview more personal, and sometimes more memorable.

**What questions to ask them?**

There is nothing wrong with writing down your questions before an interview. Then at the end of the interview when they ask if you have any questions, you can refer to them and say, “I did have some but I think you’ve covered it all”. This shows that you have thought about the interview and prepared.

Alternatively you could try and think of something to find out more about the company, i.e. ‘How many members of the team are there?’ or ‘When should I expect to hear from you?’

Remember to never ask something you should already know – i.e. ‘What does your company do?’ Big mistake.