Interview Resource

Civil Force Training Interview Questions
Civil Force Training is a division of Macquarie Commercial College Ltd (ABN 99 005 582 767) a non-profit organisation that was established in 1993 and is a National Registered Training Organisation (RTO # 3923) with Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) www.earthmovingtraining.com.au
1. CIVIL PLACEMENTS

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following are some typical questions that you may be asked during an interview. Be prepared for an interview by researching the company and position you are applying for.

WHAT ARE THE KEY RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONSTRUCTION WORKER?

Major responsibilities of a construction worker include: Operating various plant and equipment, breaking up concrete using jackhammers, operating drill machines as needed, shovelling construction material into cement mixers, positioning and aligning concrete and steel structures, signalling heavy machinery operators for correct placement of portable structures and setting up and removing of scaffoldings for support.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO BE ABLE TO READ AND INTERPRET PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS?

There is nothing more important than being able to read and interpret plans and specifications. This is because all activities of a construction worker depend on these two. If you cannot read and interpret these, you cannot plan and execute construction activities.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ON-THE-JOB INJURY? DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED AND THE MEASURES YOU WOULD TAKE TO ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

Earlier on in my career, I fell from a high rise building that I was performing construction work on. I had been too sure of myself and decided not to fasten my harness because I was “only” 20 feet above the ground. I fell down and landed on my back. I was lucky not to break my back. But from then on, I realized that even if one is 2 feet above the ground, a harness is essential.

HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH SITUATIONS WHERE CUSTOMERS HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE QUALITY OF YOUR WORK?

It is not always possible to satisfy everyone. However, it is our job to make sure that they are happy with what we do. If a customer has issues with the quality of my work, I confer with them to determine what went wrong and then take all measures to ensure to correct it.

TELL US OF A SITUATION IN WHICH YOU HAD LITTLE OR NO DIRECTION. HOW DID YOU DEAL WITH IT?

Situations such as these arise often. Construction workers all have their own specialties and there are times when we do not get much direction. In a situation such as these, I make use of my own judgment as much as possible along with keeping in contact with customers to ask for periodic feedback.

FOR YOU, WHAT IS THE MOST ENJOYABLE AND MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THIS JOB?

I enjoy installing various systems into constructional structures especially the electrical ones since I find them very amusing and like to see how they work. The part I find difficult is when the plan changes after the job has started and is nearing completion. Design modifications usually involve breaking down of a portion of construction and when redone its neatness is compromised.
HOW WILL YOUR PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE SUPPORT YOU IN THIS JOB?
In my previous role I have been mainly responsible for cement mixing, loading and unloading of material and spreading concrete mixtures to dry and form structures. Some tasks might vary a little but I believe the core duties I have mentioned are all required by the position in question as well and my experience will give me an edge over other inexperienced candidates.

WHAT ARE THE SKILLS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED DURING YOUR PREVIOUS CONSTRUCTION WORKER JOB?
When I joined as a construction worker I had very little knowledge of mixing materials. Over the past 4 years I have learnt a lot about the types of building materials, their specifications and required quantities to generate specific quality and compositions of construction blocks as per demand of the target structure.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE IN INTERPRETING A BLUE PRINT OR A BUILDING DESIGN LAYOUT?
Last year it so happened that our contracting supervisor had to go on leave and I took charge of the team for 15 days. I understood, translated and implemented the blue print plan effectively while he was gone and on return he was very happy with my work.

HOW WOULD YOU RATE YOUR MATHEMATICAl SKILLS?
My numeracy skills are fairly good. I can easily calculate required percentages of various construction materials to be added in the mixture. I am also well versed in calculating cost estimates based on the given market rates and client’s construction plan.

WHAT IS THE CONSTRUCTION TASK THAT YOU FEEL YOU ARE BEST AT?
I believe I am best at cement spreading. Being a perfectionist I do not stop until the assigned surface is consistent and smooth.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT US?
“WE MAKE” (name of company) is a well known construction company and you have some really impressive buildings to your credit. You work mainly in concrete and cement structures but also provide services in glass fittings, pipe laying and installation of electrical system.
PRACTICE SAMPLE QUESTIONS:

Here is a list of common interview questions, please have a go at answering them yourself.

1. Tell me about yourself?

2. What are your biggest strengths?

3. Why did you leave your last job?

4. What are your career goals?

5. Why do you want to work here?
6. What is your greatest weakness?

7. What do co-workers say about you?

8. Are you applying for other jobs?

9. What do you know about our organization?

10. What kind of salary are you looking for?
11. How long would you expect to work for us if hired?

12. Do you know anyone who works for us?

13. Why should we hire you?

14. What Is Your Dream Job

15. What are you looking for in a job
CONSTRUCTION INTERVIEW TIPS

PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS.

If you were going to buy a car, you would first read reviews and research things like fuel economy, parts and service costs and insurance cost before you brought it. The same goes with an interview, before you go to your interview study for it!

Ask the questions;
   Who are they?
   What is their primary product or service?

QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER OR TO ASK AT AN INTERVIEW

While there’s no way to truly experience the organization before accepting an offer, what can job seekers do to better estimate what the new job will be like? The following questions are designed to help you find out what you need to know about your responsibilities on the job, in the workplace environment, and as part of company culture:

1. WHAT ARE THE IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES FOR THE PERSON IN THIS POSITION?
   Is the role for a labourer and what kind of labouring, etc. mixing cement

2. ARE THERE ANY MAJOR JOB RESPONSIBILITIES I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THAT WERE NOT IN THE JOB POSTING OR JOB DESCRIPTION?
   Job vacancy announcements and the formal descriptions kept on file in human resources offices can be full of information that is more bureaucratic in nature than actually representative of the work to be performed. What else can they tell you about their expectations of you and your work?

3. WHAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE FOR SOMEONE IN THIS POSITION?
   If it’s a brand new position, for example, what do they anticipate a typical day will be like?

4. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST MISTAKES YOU’VE SEEN EMPLOYEES MAKE?
   What are your supervisor’s pet pees – coming in late, not proofreading correspondence, or not asking for assistance when it’s needed?

5. WHAT IMPROVEMENTS OR CHANGES DO YOU HOPE I’LL TO BRING TO THIS POSITION?
   These types of interview questions show the ability of the candidate to identify, build and maintain short and
Think about how you might be able to address some of the following concerns in advance of accepting an offer. You will often have the opportunity to ask questions of your interviewers at the end of an interview or after an offer has been extended. Having these kinds of questions ready will not only help you get the information you need to make a decision about the job, but also show that you are prepared.

1. WHICH VALUES ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU RIGHT NOW?
You may have chosen jobs based on money before, but maybe independence and growth are more important for you now.

2. WHAT EXPERIENCE OR OPPORTUNITY IS MISSING IN YOUR CURRENT WORK?
If your current tasks are not challenging you, the same job description in a different company won’t make a difference.

3. WHAT KIND OF OPPORTUNITY WILL ALLOW YOU TO DO YOUR BEST WORK?
The same job in a different industry could make a big difference in job satisfaction and growth potential.

4. WHAT KIND OF WORK ENVIRONMENT, CULTURE AND VALUES DO YOU WANT IN YOUR NEXT EMPLOYER?
Use your network and online resources to get background information before you spend time applying to companies that may not be a good fit.

5. WHAT THOUGHTS, BEHAVIOURS AND BELIEFS ABOUT WORK DO YOU NEED TO LET GO OF IN ORDER TO ATTRACT DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES?
Remember, you will attract what you give attention to. Are you holding onto a belief that work has to be hard? Or maybe you expect that managers are always out to find your flaws.
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