

Some Great Interview Questions to Ask a Potential Employer

Is your company involved in community activities? If so, what?

Companies that are involved in community activities such as United Way, Chamber of Commerce, local boosters club, etc. usually have a good reputation. You may even want to go around town and ask folks at the Dairy Bar what they think of ABC Company as a place to work.

What will the job be like?

An interviewer should be ready to describe the job duties for the first year, training opportunities, and expected performance. Applicants also might ask about the work environment, the structure of the department, or the retention rate of others who have held the same position.

What about advancement opportunities?

Job candidates may want details about employee evaluation and promotion, available career training, or promotions from within. Applicants' questions can get fairly specific: how top managers got where they are, what progression a typical career path might take, or what qualities characterize the successful person in the company.

Will the job be personally fulfilling?

An interviewer should be prepared to handle questions about the challenging aspects of the job, and what opportunities for personal growth exist in the company. The applicant's inquiry may even become personal: Can the interviewer explain why he or she likes working for the company? What they like most/least about working for the company.

Is the employer's economic outlook healthy?

Applicants may want some assurances about the company's current and future condition. Does the interviewer have information about the company's growth plans, financial and employment stability, and industry trends that will affect its future? The interviewer may be asked to assess the company's uniqueness, its strong and weak points, and its personality and management style.