

Common Interview Questions

Think about how you will answer these questions and practice answering them aloud:

- 1. What do you know about our company?** Find out as much as you can before the interview - conduct simple google searches, and take good notes, be prepared to cite company information at the interview.
- 2. What qualifications do you have for this job?** Match job requirements to your experience, skill set and soft skills - be prepared to cite a summary of your qualifications.
- 3. What is your greatest strength?** Relate your answer to the job description.
- 4. What is your greatest weakness?** Turn it into a positive; e.g., perfectionist with high self-expectations. Admit a past problem and what you learned from it.
- 5. Talk about yourself.** Reveal something semi-personal but still professional.
- 6. What do you think you learned during your incarceration?** Be positive; simply explain the actions you have taken to better yourself and why you are a good fit for the job. Cite classes, certifications, programs you have participated in, and explain why you would be a great asset to the company.
- 7. Why did you leave your previous job?** Turn into a positive; e.g., I wanted new challenges. I want a position that promotes growth. I took a new position that was more aligned with my skill set/experience.
- 8. Could you give an example of how you demonstrated _____ skill?** The skill will usually be selected from either your resume or the job description so make sure you practice your answers).
- 9. Give an example of how you handled a difficult situation on a previous job.** Use the STAR technique - use ARIZONA@WORK handout - this question is very common... be prepared.
- 10. In a job, what interests you most or least?** Relate the answer to the position, not the company. Never answer negatively.
- 11. Where do you see yourself in three years?** Demonstrate ambition, flexibility and career growth.
- 12. What could you have done better on your last job?** Stay positive and don't exaggerate weakness.
- 13. What have you done recently that shows your initiative and willingness to work?** Refer to the STAR technique or cite specific examples with clear action steps taken to show initiative at the workplace.
- 14. Tell me about your top 3 accomplishments.** Relate your answer to the position and be prepared.
- 15. Why should we hire you?** Be specific and cite skill set, experience, soft skills, and reasons why you are a good fit for the position.

Connect with your COIII to learn more about the Second Chance Centers. Upon release email dersreentry@azdes.gov to connect with an employment specialist. You can also Schedule a Virtual Appointment to meet with an employment specialist from our DES website <https://des.az.gov/services/employment/job-seekers>