

# Top 10 Security Guard Interview Questions and Tips

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Like all other jobs, your future employer is looking for someone competent, affable and reliable. Security guard job is not easy; it needs a lot of alertness and vigilance. Therefore, the interviewers may ask a series of related and unrelated questions to help them gauge your suitability for the post.

We have highlighted the commonly asked questions in any security guard interview to help you prepare adequately. As if that is not enough, we have also included crucial tips to make the whole process easier for you. Read on

## Over to You

Congratulations you have been shortlisted for the interview. Below are details on what to do before, during and after your big day.

### Before the interview

#### 1. Take one more look at your resume

This is a competitive world. You can't underestimate the criticalness of your resume. You need it to stand out; this is why it is important to tailor your resume for each job application. Find a recruiter who is willing to assist you to find a suitable length as well as the experience and core skills to highlight.

#### 2. Do your research about the company

Have a firm grasp of the company's history; you are likely to impress your interviewer. For any potential company that you intend to work for, always do a SWOT analysis. (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats)

#### 3. Prepare adequately

You will only impress your interviewer if you have an idea of what their problems are, plus a solution on how they can be solved. Additionally, find out about what the company's culture is like. Look into the dress code and policies. Get a list of questions to ask during the interview when given an opportunity.

#### 3. Practice earlier enough

Each interview has inevitable questions that people dread. For example "tell me about yourself" is a question mostly asked at the beginning of an interview. Remember the first words from your mouth are crucial. Most importantly focus on your speech and confidence. Get a family member to keenly watch you practice; they may notice things that you won't.

This article has included other 10 questions that you may be asked during an interview. Practice them earlier enough to avoid being caught up.

## At the waiting room

You should:

- Be sited in the waiting room at least 20 minutes before the interview begins
- Use this time to remember answers to some of the commonly asked questions.
- Visit the washroom before you get into the interview room. You need to concentrate fully while in the interview room and a full bladder won't let you!
- Avoid chewing gum. You are less likely to stay calm and concentrate on your rehearsals.
- Avoid walking around the waiting room, sit still and stay calm.
- Avoid chatting with the company staff at the waiting room. Remember they have their tasks to complete.

## At the interview

### 1. Mind your manners

- Always shake hands with the interviewer before and at the end of an interview.
- Make sure your phone is turned off. This is an important day; a phone call during your interview can blow away chances of landing yourself the job.
- Stay polite to every person you meet during the interview. Your potential employer expects you to have a good rapport with every person from the security guards to office attendants
- Remember to smile. A genuine smile gives an impression of a happy and positive person
- Maintain eye contact. It is the simplest way to show your potential employers that you good at paying attention.
- Take note of your interviewer's body language. Leaning forward means that they have already created an interest in what you are saying. When turned away, they could be drifting and losing concentration.
- Do not argue with your interviewer. Avoid controversial topics at all costs.
- Do not lie about your experiences and encounters. This will automatically disqualify you.

### 2. Showcase your expertise by how you answer questions

Present yourself as an executive in the security field. It is vital to articulate what you are able to do. Remember to formulate for a moment, there is no prize for speedy answers during an interview.

- Confidence is paramount, show it all.

## After the interview

### 1. Remember to make a follow-up

Avoid phone calls, they are unofficial. An email is OK. Even though, remember that a written letter demands response, that's why writing a letter is the best way of making a follow-up.

Without a rush, draft a "thank you "Note to your interviewer. This should happen 2-4 days after the interview.

### 2. Stay positive

The job market is undoubtedly tight as we speak. Most companies may interview candidates but delay hiring because of finances and what a view. Never get tired of following up just to let them know that you remain interested. Remain soft in your tone, do not pressure the person. For example " It's within my knowledge that your decision may delay. I remain interested for the next four months"

It is essential to remain sympathetic to their situation. Do not get abrasive on such matters.

## **Top 10 Interview Questions for security guards**

Before you go for that interview, you need to become familiar with the following questions and know how to answer them perfectly. Some of the questions are related to the security guard post while others are just general. We have listed the top 10 questions that you can expect, read through....

### **1. Why do you want to work for this company?**

This type of question will point out to your employer that you have done your homework. This is your fair chance to state the positive things that you have learned about the company and how relevant they are in your career goals and dreams. It is an added advantage if you mention that you read an article or came across news about the company which you liked.

You may go ahead to point out what impressed you about the company over some past years. For example "your 30 percent increase in sales in the past one year was a great achievement"

### **2. Why do you want to be a security guard?**

"What other option did I have? Ever since I was a mere child, I have always dreamt of helping other people. It feels great to know that someone is secure because of me." Vividly explain to the interviewer that the skills you possess personally and professionally make you a great security guard. "I have acquired several skills over the last 10 years that are applicable to this job. Foremost, I have great skills in assembling and monitoring of surveillance devices. Secondly am First Aid certified. Lastly, I have been training in martial arts for a while now, so I feel so confident in providing security to those around me."

### **3. What is your greatest strength and weaknesses?**

This question gives you a chance to market yourself as an ideal employee. To describe your strengths, offer confident response describing how your skills have led to your success in the field over the past few years and how they shall benefit your next employer. Do not exaggerate your skills, only mention strengths you know can be noted in your everyday work. Here are some of the best strengths to mention:

- Great teamwork player
- Unwavering focus
- Result-oriented
- Time conscious
- Desirable work ethics
- Adaptability

The question about your weakness should never be difficult to answer. Never tell your interviewer that you do have any weakness. This will come off as less honest and may not work in your favour. Instead turn around the question and state how you overcome your weaknesses. For example, you

may admit to not always handling paperwork well, but your humble nature leaves plenty of room for correction and criticism.

#### **4. What is the meaning of \_?**

Expect this question that tests your knowledge on specific terms commonly used in the field. These terms must be well-understood. Here are some of the common terms that you may be asked to explain in a security guard interview:

- Threat
- Information security system
- Surveillance

#### **5. How does your experience relate to the duties that are expected of you in the job?**

This question gives you a chance to list your core competencies and skills that render you fit for the position. Explain that you have acquired various skills through regular training and years of experience. The skills include surveillance devices assembling and monitoring, fire extinguisher handling, camera and alarms handling, incident reporting, metal screening, and security dispatch protocols.

#### **6. Have you ever lied to an employer?**

This question is often asked when an employer intends to test your honesty. The key point is to remain calm and steady. You may not have lied to your employer in the past but that is beside the point here. Avoid blazing your guns in the air. Being defensive may not do the trick, instead, you may narrate an incident that actually occurred and mention lessons learned from the whole experience, not forgetting how you could deal with such situation if it occurs again in the future.

#### **7. If you learned that a colleague was accessing information that they should not have access to, what could you do?**

This is a common question testing work ethics. It is important to explain that every company has its guidelines and protocols when it comes to handling different situations. You may also give a natural answer such as "It shall not be wise to stop him or her personally, but it is in my place to inform my supervisor immediately."

#### **8. Tell me about a time that you...**

Had to remove a patron from the premises

Had to prevent a violent situation

Had to apply first aid

The interviewer asks these questions when they are interested to know whether you have been in such situations and the key measures you initiated. Simply explain the role you played during such incidences and the outcome.

#### **9. What would you do if you were instructed not to abandon your post but were alerted to a situation where someone was in danger?**

This question tests your obedience to the law. Each company has policies that should be followed to the latter. Consider the available options; will leaving your post lead to trouble with your employer?

Are you able to save the person in danger if you run off to them? Answer this best way you can, but never forget to state that policies and laws of the company are to be observed at all costs.

#### **10. Do you have any questions for us?**

Most interviewers ask this to gauge your interest in the job. It is important to be prepared with questions that you can ask when the opportunity presents itself. However, keep your questions short and precise, most importantly focus on your skills and help the employer picture you in the job. Here is an example of questions that you may ask:

##### **How will my success be measured?**

This will help you understand the company's definition of employee success. Do not forget that a company's recognition of achievement says a lot about its culture. The answer you receive will help you gauge whether you shall be a good fit for your new job.

##### **What is your history with the company?**

It's important to seek a personal insight from people interviewing you. Be it the human resource manager or the department head. Their answers may give ideas on how the company works. If the interviewer happens to be your boss, ask about their management style and how they define individual success.

##### **Do you have any concerns?**

This question makes the interviewer reflect on the whole interview. This will provide another opportunity to sell yourself. You will also have a chance to clarify if the interviewer brings up any issues.

#### **Our last thoughts**

The security industry is a great stepping stone to several opportunities in other fields such as law and public safety. With years of experience, one can pursue other careers. It is therefore important to fully understand your strengths during your line of duty to help you determine other opportunities in and out of the security field.

We wish you nothing but the best during your interview. You got this!