



## **College Interviews: Questions you may be asked**

### **1. Tell me about yourself.**

How do you reduce your whole life to a few sentences? Of course, you want to demonstrate that you're friendly and studious, but try also to say something memorable here that really makes you different from other college applicants. Do you make a killer roast dinner? Do you do your best thinking when on a bike ride? Do you read books late at night with a torch?

### **2. Why are you interested in our college?**

Be specific when answering this and show that you've done your research. What specifically about the college distinguishes it from others you are considering? The interviewer is hoping that you are interested in the college for reasons other than peer pressure or convenience. Similarly, if you say you applied entirely because of a parent or teacher's recommendation, you'll be suggesting that you lack initiative and have few thoughts of your own.

### **3. Who in your life has most influenced you?**

There are other variations of this question i.e. Who's your hero? What historical or fictional character would you most like to be like and why? This can be an awkward question if you haven't thought about it, so spend a few minutes considering how you would answer. In this question, the interviewer may want to see if you can think on your feet or think creatively, or even get you to try and reveal more about your character. Therefore, identify a few real, historical and fictional characters you admire and be prepared to articulate WHY you admire them.

### **4. Why do you want to study?**

It is OK if you have not decided what course/s you want to study when you apply to college - your interviewer will not be disappointed if you say you have several interests and have not yet decided. However, if you have identified a course be prepared to explain why. Avoid saying that you want to study something because you'll make a lot of money one day - your passion for a subject will make you a good college student, not your love of money.

### **5. What do you do for fun in your free time?**

'Hanging out' and 'chilling' is a weak answer for this question. College life obviously isn't all work, so the college admissions staff want students who will do interesting and productive things even when they aren't studying. Do you write? Fish? Play a sport? Answer a question such as this one to show that you are well-rounded with a variety of interests.

### **6. What did you do with your time in lockdown?**

Everyone will have found their time at home in lockdown challenging, so you can explain why this was and what you did in response to it. Did you take up a new hobby or interest during lockdown?

### **7. Do your predicted grades accurately reflect your effort and ability?**

In the interview or on your application, you often have an opportunity to explain a low grade. Be careful with this issue -- you don't want to come across as someone who blames others for a low grade. However if you really did have valid reasons, let the college know.

### **8. What can I tell you about our college?**

You can almost guarantee that your interviewer will provide an opportunity for you to ask questions. Make sure you have some, and make sure your questions are thoughtful and specific to the particular college and course.



## For the interview:

### 1. Reread your application.

Before your interview, reread your college application as the interviewer may ask you a question based on something you wrote in it e.g. 'You mentioned in your application that you coach a junior football team – can you tell me about it?'

### 2. Plan your journey.

If attending an interview at college think about how you will travel there; look at bus/train timetables and plan your route. Allow plenty of time, as it is always better to be early.

### 3. Dress to impress.

Smart casual is your safest bet, but the main thing is to look neat, clean and tidy.

### 4. Make a good impression.

Be polite. Try to address your interviewer by name. Introduce your parents if they are in the waiting area. Do thank your interviewer at the end of the interview.

### 5. Mobile Phones.

Switch off your mobile phone before the interview. If you forget and it rings, apologise but don't answer it!

### 6. Be yourself.

Some students may feel they need to exaggerate to impress the interviewer, just be yourself. Your interviewer wants to get to know you, so practise answering some of the interview questions on the previous page.

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