

# Head of Purchasing Job Interview Questions And Answers



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## Head of Purchasing Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

### Question - 1:

How do you adapt to new working environments As Head of Purchasing?

#### Ans:

It's important that you demonstrate that you can adapt to changing environments quickly. You want to stress that you can manage change. The one thing in life that is constant after all, is change.

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### Question - 2:

Why are you interested in working As Head of Purchasing for [insert company name here]?

#### Ans:

Bad Answer: They don't have a good reason, or provide a generic answer, "I think it represents a great opportunity."

Good answer: One that shows they've done research on the company, and are truly excited about specific things they can do at the job. This not only shows enthusiasm for the work and basic preparation skills, gives you clues about the cultural fit.

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### Question - 3:

What have you done to improve yourself in the last year As Head of Purchasing?

#### Ans:

Discuss how you've improved yourself through work experiences, books you've read, classes, club(s) / extracurricular activities and describe the process on how it's happened. For example: I've improved my presentation skills tremendously because I've had to do 2 presentations this year for my communications class.

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### Question - 4:

Your client is upset with you for a mistake you made, how do you react?

#### Ans:

Acknowledge their pain - empathize with them. Then apologize and offer a solution to fix the mistake.

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### Question - 5:

What kind of work interests you the most?

#### Ans:

You can talk about what you're passionate about. What motivates you. What excites you.

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### Question - 6:

How do you evaluate success As Head of Purchasing?

#### Ans:

I evaluate success As Head of Purchasing in different ways. At work, it is meeting the goals set by my supervisors and my fellow workers. It is my understanding, from talking to other employees, that the Global Guideline company is recognized for not only rewarding success but giving employees opportunity to grow as well.

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### Question - 7:

What's the difference between good and exceptionally great?

#### Ans:

Being good is getting the job done as promised As Head of Purchasing. Being great is delivering the work in an exceptional way that completely exceeds



expectations.

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### Question - 8:

Describe your management style?

#### Ans:

Try to avoid specific classifications, whatever it may be. Organizations usually prefer managers who can adapt their skills to different situations.

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### Question - 9:

How long do you want to work for us if we hire you?

#### Ans:

Here being specific is probably not the best approach. You may consider responding, "I hope a very long time." Or "As long as we're both happy with my performance."

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### Question - 10:

How did you become interested in this field/industry?

#### Ans:

Describe how you've come to develop a passion or interest in this industry and use variables like "culture, people, vision, career development, and the work itself" to define your choice

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### Question - 11:

If you have multiple projects on your plate, how do you handle completing them on time?

#### Ans:

Prioritize based on business importance. Set clear timelines for each so that you know which ones to knock out first. Get your teammates to help if necessary.

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### Question - 12:

In your last job what kinds of pressure did you encounter and how did you react As Head of Purchasing?

#### Ans:

Do not show your fear or uneasiness in handling pressure. Everyone likes to have a worker who can handle pressure calmly and with a clear train of thought. Show how you would logically come to a conclusion in a pressure filled situation.

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### Question - 13:

What three character traits would your friends use to describe you?

#### Ans:

Friends would typically use attributes like (assuming you have these): Trustworthy, honest, hardworking, friendly, courageous, nice, diligent, organized and so forth. Not saying you have all of these, but the best way for you to find out is to survey your friends by asking them what they consider your brand to be.

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### Question - 14:

What critical component of this position As Head of Purchasing makes the work challenging?

#### Ans:

Heading information: This should include job title, pay grade or range, reporting relationship (by position, not individual), hours or shifts, and the likelihood of overtime or weekend work.

Summary objective of the job: List the general responsibilities and descriptions of key tasks and their purpose, relationships with customers, coworkers, and others, and the results expected of incumbent employees.

Qualifications: State the education, experience, training, and technical skills necessary for entry into this job.

Special demands: This should include any extraordinary conditions applicable to the job As Head of Purchasing (for example, heavy lifting, exposure to temperature extremes, prolonged standing, or travel).

Job duties and responsibilities: Only two features of job responsibility are important: identifying tasks that comprise about 90 to 95 percent of the work done and listing tasks in order of the time consumed (or, sometimes, in order of importance).

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### Question - 15:

How would your boss and co-workers describe you?

#### Ans:

First of all, be honest (remember, if you get this job, the hiring manager will be calling your former bosses and co-workers!). Then, try to pull out strengths and traits you haven't discussed in other aspects of the interview As Head of Purchasing, such as your strong work ethic or your willingness to pitch in on other projects when needed.



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**Question - 16:**

How did you handle meeting a tight deadline As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

Review every deadline you need to meet. Prioritize your projects by deadline and factor in how important each project is. Record your deadlines on a digital calendar or spreadsheet.

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**Question - 17:**

Describe a time when you put your needs aside to help a co-worker understand a task. How did you assist them? What was the result?

**Ans:**

The key is to show that the mentoring of a co-worker was first a higher priority than the task you had at hand (remember, you want to show that you focus on highest priority tasks first). Then, describe in detail how you helped them not only complete the task but learn to do it on their own. You want to teach them HOW to fish and not to simply fish for them.

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**Question - 18:**

How does your present position differ from past ones?

**Ans:**

Describe the difference with regards to responsibilities, culture, team, career opportunity, and the work itself.

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**Question - 19:**

You have a project due in one hour but a more important emergency that affects business needs to be fixed immediately, what do you do?

**Ans:**

Focus on the issue that impacts the business most first.

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**Question - 20:**

How do you handle confidentiality in your work?

**Ans:**

Often, interviewers will ask questions to find out the level of technical knowledge As Head of Purchasing that a candidate has concerning the duties of a care assistant. In a question such as this, there is an opportunity to demonstrate professional knowledge and awareness. The confidentiality of a person's medical records is an important factor for a care assistant to bear in mind.

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**Question - 21:**

How do you believe you would benefit our organization?

**Ans:**

This is a great question that provides you the opportunity to put your best foot forward, to tell the interviewer why he or she should consider hiring you for the job. Make sure you're well prepared for this question as you won't likely get a second chance to really shine.

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**Question - 22:**

Tell me why do you want this job As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

Bad Answer: No solid answer, answers that don't align with what the job actually offers, or uninspired answers that show your position is just another of the many jobs they're applying for.

Good answer: The candidate has clear reasons for wanting the job that show enthusiasm for the work and the position, and knowledge about the company and job.

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**Question - 23:**

Tell us about a suggestion you have made that has benefited an organization you've worked for?

**Ans:**

This is another opportunity to show the interviewer what you're capable of so make sure to be prepared for this type of question. Have an example ready and make sure it's an example of a suggestion you've made that was accepted and that has positive influence. If you can come up with an example that relates to the position you're applying for that would be even better.

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**Question - 24:**

If you were given more initiatives than you could handle, what would you do?



**Ans:**

First prioritize the important activities that impact the business most. Then discuss the issue of having too many initiatives with the boss so that it can be offloaded. Work harder to get the initiatives done.

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**Question - 25:**

What's your dream job?

**Ans:**

Along similar lines, the interviewer wants to uncover whether this position As Head of Purchasing is really in line with your ultimate career goals. While "an GGL star" might get you a few laughs, a better bet is to talk about your goals and ambitions-and why this job will get you closer to them.

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**Question - 26:**

How do you rate yourself in computer skills? Please describe the programs and software that you can use well?

**Ans:**

Ideally you want to be able to type quickly, have the ability to effectively use Microsoft Office, and more importantly be able to quickly adapt to computer / technology skills. More and more it's become an integral part of work. If the job doesn't require technology skills - then this question shouldn't be asked!

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**Question - 27:**

What differentiates you from the competition?

**Ans:**

Think about what you bring to the table that you truly believe is unique - the easiest way to do is to think of your own personal stories that demonstrate your work ethic, skills, and dedication. Most people have some or all of those skills, but the unique stories are what make people stand out in interviews.

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**Question - 28:**

Are You a 'People' Person?

**Ans:**

Although it may be phrased a little differently, the gist of this question is clear:

Do you like being around people? If you don't, being a medical assistant isn't a good fit for you. After all, you'll be working directly with patients throughout the day. It helps a lot if you sincerely like interacting with them. While answering this question, make sure to mention that you like helping people too. This will drive home the point that you are a talented medical assistant and would be a valuable part of the team As Head of Purchasing.

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**Question - 29:**

What skills do you bring to the table?

**Ans:**

Think of your skill sets with regards to: analytical skills, interpersonal skills, communication skills, computer skills, presentation skills, management skills, sales skills and so forth.

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**Question - 30:**

Do you like being around people?

**Ans:**

People skills are a necessity for medical assistants. When answering this question, be sure to show that you enjoy interacting and working with others and that you also derive great enjoyment from helping others. This will show that you are a team player and that you would be a valuable team member As Head of Purchasing.

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**Question - 31:**

How has school prepared you for this job role?

**Ans:**

Think back to how you've interacted with your peers to develop social skills, how you've worked with classmates on projects to develop teamwork and collaborative skills, how you've developed discipline through studying, how the courses have helped your creativity, and how the classes you've taken have impacted your analytical / problem solving / reasoning skills.

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**Question - 32:**

Do you value recognition or pay more? Why?

**Ans:**

Either preference is fine, but just remember you have to be able to explain why. If you say recognition, then back that up by describing how achievement really carries weight with you and how you like to feel valued in the work that you do because it validates that you're helping your teammates / customers and so forth. If you choose money, you can also explain that is important to you as validation and you can highlight how money is important to you because of your goals (financial security, providing for your family, and so forth). The key is to be authentic with your answer. However, if you say you value pay more because you're greedy - know



that doesn't align usually to most company's values/vision.

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**Question - 33:**

Who was your favorite manager and why?

**Ans:**

Describe the attributes you liked about your favorite manager, typically attributes discussed are: Great at coaching, inspiring, motivating, empowering, trusting, delegating, leading, etc.

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**Question - 34:**

Why are you interested in this type of job As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

You're looking for someone who enjoys working with the elderly, or a caring, sociable, and nurturing person.

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**Question - 35:**

Why do you want to join our company?

**Ans:**

This is a question that is aimed at finding out whether you know enough about the company and the basic market. The best way to answer this question is to do some research on the company and highlight its positive points.

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**Question - 36:**

What is your biggest regret to date and why?

**Ans:**

Describe honestly the regretful action / situation you were in but then discuss how you proactively fixed / improved it and how that helped you to improve as a person/worker.

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**Question - 37:**

What do you aspire to be?

**Ans:**

Discuss your aspirations for the near, immediate and long term. You want to show them you are thinking of making an impact now as well as the future.

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**Question - 38:**

How do you handle your anger?

**Ans:**

I don't get angry very easily but in the rare occasion that I do, I hold it in and act as though nothing is wrong.

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**Question - 39:**

What other companies are you interviewing with?

**Ans:**

Companies ask this for a number of reasons, from wanting to see what the competition is for you to sniffing out whether you're serious about the industry. "Often the best approach is to mention that you are exploring a number of other similar options in the company's industry." It can be helpful to mention that a common characteristic of all the jobs you are applying to is the opportunity to apply some critical abilities and skills that you possess. For example, you might say 'I am applying for several positions with IT consulting firms where I can analyze client needs and translate them to development teams in order to find solutions to technology problems.'

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**Question - 40:**

What are your salary requirements As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

The #1 rule of answering this question is doing your research on what you should be paid by using site like Global Guideline. You'll likely come up with a range, and we recommend stating the highest number in that range that applies, based on your experience, education, and skills. Then, make sure the hiring manager knows that you're flexible. You're communicating that you know your skills are valuable, but that you want the job and are willing to negotiate.

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**Question - 41:**

How do you define arrogance? Are you arrogant?



**Ans:**

Arrogance is having an attitude of superiority beyond reason. Confidence is believing in yourself without being cocky. You should not be arrogant.

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**Question - 42:**

How did you find out about this job As Head of Purchasing? What do you know about the job?

**Ans:**

Possible ways to find out about the job:

Online website listing, friend, professional referral, mentor, career fairs, networking events. You should know about the roles and responsibilities of the job and what they're looking for. Make sure you read up on that online beforehand or ask the person that referred you.

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**Question - 43:**

How many basketballs would fit in this room?

**Ans:**

One. You did not ask what is the maximum number of basketballs you can fit in the room.

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**Question - 44:**

What role do you see technology playing in this role?

**Ans:**

Technology is important to almost every job today but it's not meant to be abused. I believe it's important to increase productivity and not for personal use.

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**Question - 45:**

How do you continue learning on a daily basis? Why is continuous improvement necessary As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

You can learn on the job, through books and magazines, through social networks, blogs, seminars, mentors and so on. Continuous improvement is important because the one thing in life that is constant is change. And you have to continue to push yourself day in and day out to be the best.

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**Question - 46:**

How would you feel about working for someone who knows less than you As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

The reality is, the majority of the time someone is in a management/leadership position is because of their experience and past success. So they probably possess at least a unique set of knowledge from you. So you'll want to learn from them as much as possible. If it's not the case, then discuss how you would look for mentors in different departments to help your personal career development.

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**Question - 47:**

Did the salary we offer attract you to this job?

**Ans:**

The interviewer could be asking you this question for a number of reasons. Obviously, the salary is an important factor to your interest in this job, but it should not be the overriding reason for your interest. A good answer to this question is, "The salary was very attractive, but the job itself is what was most attractive to me."

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**Question - 48:**

Why should we give you this job As Head of Purchasing when someone else is equally qualified?

**Ans:**

Describe how you're unique, but make sure you tie it to the job responsibilities and how you would impact the company. For example, "I believe my unique programming skills and experience in developing over 18 best selling iphone apps will help the company develop high quality applications faster than my competitors"

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**Question - 49:**

What do you already know about our company?

**Ans:**

Good reputation of a large home grown company that has various departments and product.

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**Question - 50:**

What is your greatest failure As Head of Purchasing, and what did you learn from it?



**Ans:**

When I was in college, I took an art class to supplement my curriculum. I didn't take it very seriously, and assumed that, compared to my Engineering classes, it would be a walk in the park. My failing grades at midterm showed me otherwise. I'd even jeopardized my scholarship status. I knew I had to get my act together. I spent the rest of the semester making up for it, ended up getting a decent grade in the class. I learned that no matter what I'm doing, I should strive to do it to the best of my ability. Otherwise, it's not worth doing at all.

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**Question - 51:**

What do you know about our competition?

**Ans:**

Make sure you do your research on their competitors. You can find this by going to yahoo finance and click on their competitors (if they are public). From there research the news on them and go to their websites to understand their positioning on solutions and vision. You can also research local regional companies that are their competition (if it's a smaller private company on a regional scale) by simply typing in similar product offerings in the Google search followed by the city. Make sure you know their competitor's vision, products, culture, and how they are differentiated against their competition (and if they're not, how they could be)

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**Question - 52:**

Why are you the best fit for this job As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

Analyze the job responsibilities and match those to your skills sets. Then discuss how your experience and skills sets can truly create the best impact to the company in that specific job role. Impact could mean marketing impressions, sales, cutting costs, making products more efficiently, creating better customer service, engineering new designs that create customer excitement, etc.

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**Question - 53:**

Do you work well under pressure?

**Ans:**

Yes.. When it comes down to the wire, the best thing I can to remain focused, have some flexibility, and understand priorities.. Giving them attention in the order they are needed.

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**Question - 54:**

Describe a typical work week for this position As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

Interviewers expect a candidate for employment to discuss what they do while they are working in detail. Before you answer, consider the position As Head of Purchasing you are applying for and how your current or past positions relate to it. The more you can connect your past experience with the job opening, the more successful you will be at answering the questions.

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**Question - 55:**

Are you planning to continue your studies and training As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

If asked about plans for continued education, companies typically look for applicants to tie independent goals with the aims of the employer. Interviewers consistently want to see motivation to learn and improve. Continuing education shows such desires, especially when potentials display interests in academia potentially benefiting the company.

Answering in terms of "I plan on continuing my studies in the technology field," when offered a question from a technology firm makes sense. Tailor answers about continued studies specific to desired job fields. Show interest in the industry and a desire to work long-term in said industry. Keep answers short and to the point, avoiding diatribes causing candidates to appear insincere.

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**Question - 56:**

Why are you leaving your current job?

**Ans:**

This is a toughie, but one you can be sure you'll be asked. Definitely keep things positive-you have nothing to gain by being negative about your past employers. Instead, frame things in a way that shows that you're eager to take on new opportunities and that the role you're interviewing for is a better fit for you than your current or last position. For example, "I'd really love to be part of product development from beginning to end, and I know I'd have that opportunity here." And if you were let go? Keep it simple: "Unfortunately, I was let go," is a totally OK answer.

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**Question - 57:**

If you had to choose one, would you consider yourself a big-picture person or a detail-oriented person?

**Ans:**

Both are important. You need to stress that. However, if you could only choose one, ask yourself As Head of Purchasing - do you like to be "in the weeds" with your work, or do you want to be the one painting the vision?

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**Question - 58:**

What types of personalities do you work with best?

**Ans:**

In the past, I have found it difficult to work with others who see themselves as better than others, who can take criticism, and who refuse to work with others. I have found it challenging to work with them b/c I am a team oriented person who feels the importance of working together over the needs of the individual especially in a learning environment.

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**Question - 59:**

What do you know about the company?

**Ans:**

Any candidate can read and regurgitate the company's "About" page. So, when interviewers ask this, they aren't necessarily trying to gauge whether you understand the mission-they want to know whether you care about it. Start with one line that shows you understand the company's goals, using a couple key words and phrases from the website, but then go on to make it personal. Say, "I'm personally drawn to this mission because..." or "I really believe in this approach because..." and share a personal example or two.

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**Question - 60:**

What are your salary expectations As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

This question is like a loaded gun, tricky and dangerous if you're not sure what you are doing. It's not uncommon for people to end up talking salary before really selling their skills, but knowledge is power as this is a negotiation after all. Again, this is an area where doing your research will be helpful as you will have an understanding of average salary.

One approach is asking the interviewer about the salary range, but to avoid the question entirely, you can respond that money isn't a key factor and you're goal is to advance in your career. However, if you have a minimum figure in mind and you believe you're able to get it, you may find it worth trying.

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**Question - 61:**

How do you think I rate as an interviewer?

**Ans:**

I think you did fine. I'm sure you've conducted a lot of interviews, and it's probably second nature for you now. Thanks for taking the time to meet with me today. I'm sure you have a lot of things you have to juggle every day.

I'd say you rate at least ten out of ten. The questions you asked seemed spot on. I can tell you guys are working hard to find the perfect applicant for the job. I'm glad I could meet with you.

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**Question - 62:**

What features of your previous jobs have you disliked?

**Ans:**

It's easy to talk about what you liked about your job in an interview, but you need to be careful when responding to questions about the downsides of your last position. When you're asked at a job interview about what you didn't like about your previous job, try not to be too negative. You don't want the interviewer to think that you'll speak negatively about this job or the company should you eventually decide to move on after they have hired you.

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**Question - 63:**

Does your boss know you're here today?

**Ans:**

Usually, you probably haven't told your boss for obvious reasons. So it's ok to say that they do not. You don't want to upset the balance at your current job after all and nothing is guaranteed in an interview. The interviewer should understand this stance.

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**Question - 64:**

What aspect of supervision do you find the most difficult?

**Ans:**

Managing different personalities and keeping them focused on the goal at hand.

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**Question - 65:**

What do you expect to be earning in 5 years As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

Discuss how you expect yourself to be excellent at your job. Thus, it would be reasonable to expect pay that is based on the merit of your work.

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**Question - 66:**



What type of work environment do you prefer?

**Ans:**

Ideally one that's similar to the environment of the company you're applying to. Be specific.

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**Question - 67:**

What do you think is your greatest weakness?

**Ans:**

Don't say anything that could eliminate you from consideration for the job. For instance, "I'm slow in adapting to change" is not a wise answer, since change is par for the course in most work environments. Avoid calling attention to any weakness that's one of the critical qualities the hiring manager is looking for. And don't try the old "I'm a workaholic," or "I'm a perfectionist."

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**Question - 68:**

How many square feet of pizza are eaten in the United States each month?

**Ans:**

This is a classic guesstimate question where you need to think aloud. And so first off you round the U.S. population to 300 million people (it's actually about 315 million but rounding will be much easier and your interviewer will not score you lower for rounding). Then estimate how many people eat pizza. A decent educated guess is two out of every three people, or 200 million. Now let's say the average pizza-eating person eats pizza twice a month, and eats two slices at a time. That's four slices a month. If the average slice of pizza is perhaps six inches at the base and 10 inches long, then the slice is 30 square inches of pizza. So, four pizza slices would be 120 square inches (30 times 4).

Since one square foot equals 144 square inches (12 times 12), let's assume that each person who eats pizza eats one square foot per month. Since there are 200 million pizza-eating Americans, 200 million square feet of pizza are consumed in the U.S. each month. To summarize: 300 million people in America, 200 million eat pizza, average slice of pizza is six inches at the base and 10 inches long or 30 square inches, average American eats four slices of pizza a month, four pieces times 30 square inches equals 120 square inches (one square foot is 144 square inches), so let's assume one square foot per person, and thus one square foot times 200 million people equals 200 million square feet of pizza a month.

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**Question - 69:**

Rate yourself on a scale of 10?

**Ans:**

If you truly believe you're a 10, you better be able to explain why with examples / stories. If you believe you're a great contributor and have room to grow, say 8 or 9. If you're below that, explain what you would do to improve yourself to get the ranking you believe you can be.

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**Question - 70:**

How good are you at problem solving?

**Ans:**

Describe the problem first and then discuss how you were able to fix it.

[View All Answers](#)

**Question - 71:**

How much do you expect to get paid As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

For this be prepared and research salary to find out what similar positions are paying in your area before you go to the interview. Try to find this information out before giving your salary expectations. You can and should provide a range instead of an exact number. But again, don't say any numbers you're not comfortable with because if the employer offers you a salary at the lowest end of your range, you don't have much to negotiate with when it comes to getting a higher salary.

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**Question - 72:**

Tell me about the last time you had to work with someone inside or outside of your department to accomplish a goal?

**Ans:**

Show that you were communicative with that person and that you were able to collaborate effectively in sharing ideas and work tasks. They want to see that you can be a team player.

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**Question - 73:**

Do you think you have enough experience As Head of Purchasing?

**Ans:**

If you do not have the experience they need, you need to show the employer that you have the skills, qualities and knowledge that will make you equal to people with experience but not necessary the skills. It is also good to add how quick you can pick up the routine of a new job role.

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**Question - 74:**



How do you plan to go by an example for your subordinates?

**Ans:**

Sticking to the rules by yourself, working hard and not mind participating on basic tasks is a good answer.

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**Question - 75:**

What was the most important task you ever had?

**Ans:**

There are two common answers to this question that do little to impress recruiters:

\* 'I got a 2.1'

\* 'I passed my driving test'

No matter how proud you are of these achievements, they don't say anything exciting about you. When you're going for a graduate job, having a degree is hardly going to make you stand out from the crowd and neither is having a driving licence, which is a requirement of many jobs.

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**Question - 76:**

How long will it take for you to make a significant contribution?

**Ans:**

First define significant contribution - once you do that - lay out a timeline plan in which you think you can achieve that.

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**Question - 77:**

What was the biggest professional risk you have taken and what was the outcome?

**Ans:**

First discuss how you weighed the pros and cons of the risk and the results you'd believe you could achieve. Then discuss the action plan you put into place for it and outline that step by step. Then discuss the outcome and if it wasn't optimal talk about what you would do differently in hindsight.

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**Question - 78:**

What's a time you exercised leadership?

**Ans:**

Depending on what's more important for the the role, you'll want to choose an example that showcases your project management skills (spearheading a project from end to end, juggling multiple moving parts) or one that shows your ability to confidently and effectively rally a team. And remember: "The best stories include enough detail to be believable and memorable,". Show how you were a leader in this situation and how it represents your overall leadership experience and potential.

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