

# Payroll Administrator Job Interview Questions And Answers



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# Payroll Administrator Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

## Question - 1:

Have you ever been caught stealing, or better yet, have you ever stole anything?

### Ans:

I guess everyone takes a pen or paper or little things like that. But other than that, NO. I have never stole from my employers or better yet As Payroll Administrator, from anyone.

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## Question - 2:

What did you like least about your last (or current) job As Payroll Administrator?

### Ans:

Don't vent or focus on the negative with brutally honest answers such as "My boss was a jerk," or "The company culture was too politically correct," or "They just weren't giving me the opportunity to take my career to the next level." Instead, keep the emphasis on the positive, even though there are sure to be things you weren't happy about.

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## Question - 3:

How do you deal with pressure or stressful situations?

### Ans:

Choose an answer that shows that you can meet a stressful situation head-on in a productive, positive manner and let nothing stop you from accomplishing your goals. A great approach is to talk through your go-to stress-reduction tactics (making the world's greatest to-do list, stopping to take 10 deep breaths), and then share an example of a stressful situation you navigated with ease.

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## Question - 4:

How many tennis balls can you fit into a limousine? 1,000? 10,000? 100,000? Seriously?

### Ans:

Well, seriously, you might get asked brainteaser questions like these, especially in quantitative jobs. But remember that the interviewer doesn't necessarily want an exact number-he wants to make sure that you understand what's being asked of you, and that you can set into motion a systematic and logical way to respond. So, just take a deep breath, and start thinking through the math. (Yes, it's OK to ask for a pen and paper!)

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## Question - 5:

How would you be an asset to us As Payroll Administrator?

### Ans:

Think again about the job specification and the skills needed for this role As Payroll Administrator. Have a paragraph prepared highlighting how you will be able to do the job and what you can bring to the team. It goes without saying that this paragraph should be positive.

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## Question - 6:

How would you describe your approach to Payroll Administrator?

### Ans:

In more general terms, a question such as this gives a candidate the opportunity to talk about their professional philosophy and skills. While the question is general in nature, the best answers are usually quite specific, picking one or two points and exemplifying them with instances from personal history.

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**Question - 7:**

How would your former employer describe you?

**Ans:**

In all likelihood, the interviewer will actually speak with your former employer so honesty is key. Answer as confidently and positively as possible and list all of the positive things your past employer would recognize about you. Do not make the mistake of simply saying you are responsible, organized, and dependable. Instead, include traits that are directly related to your work as a medical assistant, such as the ability to handle stressful situations and difficult patients, the way you kept meticulous records, and more.

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**Question - 8:**

If you have seven white socks and nine black socks in a drawer, how many socks do you have to pull out blindly in order to ensure that you have a matching pair?

**Ans:**

if the first one is one color (say, white), and the second one is the other color (black), then the third one, no matter what the color, will make a matching pair. (Sometimes you're not supposed to think that hard.)

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**Question - 9:**

What can you tell me about team work as part of the job As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

There is usually a team of staff nurses working in cooperation with each other. A team of nurses has to get along well and coordinate their actions, usually by dividing their responsibilities into sectors or specific activities. They help each other perform tasks requiring more than one person.

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**Question - 10:**

What have you done to reduce costs, increase revenue, or save time?

**Ans:**

Even if your only experience is an internship, you have likely created or streamlined a process that has contributed to the earning potential or efficiency of the practice. Choose at least one suitable example and explain how you got the idea, how you implemented the plan, and the benefits to the practice.

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**Question - 11:**

Do you like to start personal relationships with other employees?

**Ans:**

Well, the right answer is yes and no. Good personal relations can improve the overall performance of a team. But on the other hand, you should not let your emotions to affect your decisions in work.

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**Question - 12:**

Explain me about a time when you reached a goal within a tight deadline?

**Ans:**

I work well under pressure to meet deadlines without jeopardizing the quality of my work. I have always worked in a fast pace environment where we are constantly under pressure to achieve best results within a time frame.

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**Question - 13:**

Give me an example of an emergency situation that you faced. How did you handle it?

**Ans:**

There was a time when one of my employers faced the quitting of a manager in another country. I was asked to go fill in for him while they found a replacement and stay to train that person. I would be at least 30 days. I quickly accepted because I knew that my department couldn't function without me.

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**Question - 14:**

How much do you expect to get paid As Payroll Administrator?

**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 - 15:**

How would you observe the level of motivation of your subordinates?

**Ans:**

Choosing the right metrics and comparing productivity of everyone on daily basis is a good answer, doesn't matter in which company you apply for a supervisory



role.

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### Question - 16:

How would your friends describe you?

#### Ans:

My friends would probably say that I'm extremely persistent - I've never been afraid to keep going back until I get what I want. When I worked as a program developer, recruiting keynote speakers for a major tech conference, I got one rejection after another - this was just the nature of the job. But I really wanted the big players - so I wouldn't take no for an answer. I kept going back to them every time there was a new company on board, or some new value proposition. Eventually, many of them actually said "yes" - the program turned out to be so great that we doubled our attendees from the year before. A lot of people might have given up after the first rejection, but it's just not in my nature. If I know something is possible, I have to keep trying until I get it.

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### Question - 17:

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 - 18:

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 - 19:

What do you think we could do better or differently?

#### Ans:

This is a common one at startups. Hiring managers want to know that you not only have some background on the company, but that you're able to think critically about it and come to the table with new ideas. So, come with new ideas! What new features would you love to see? How could the company increase conversions? How could customer service be improved? You don't need to have the company's four-year strategy figured out, but do share your thoughts, and more importantly, show how your interests and expertise would lend themselves to the job.

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### Question - 20:

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 - 21:

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 - 22:

Are you planning to continue your studies and training As Payroll Administrator?

#### 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 - 23:**

Give an example of a time you successfully worked As Payroll Administrator on a team?

**Ans:**

On the whole I prefer to stick to doing what I'm told rather than setting myself up to fail by doing things off my own bat. But there was this one time when I suggested to my boss at the pizza parlor that she try offering an 'all you can eat' deal to students to boost trade on Mondays. She thought it was an interesting idea but nothing ever came of it.

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**Question - 24:**

What do you consider to be your greatest strength?

**Ans:**

There isn't any right answer. Just make sure to make your response positive and true. A few good examples include: Your ability to solve complex problems, Your ability to work well on a team, Your ability to shine under pressure, Your ability to focus in chaotic situations, Your ability to prioritize and organize, Your ability to cut through the fluff to identify the real issues, Your ability to influence other positively. If your strength relates to the position in question that will be more beneficial - but again be honest, don't create a strength for yourself just because you think it will sound good.

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**Question - 25:**

What has disappointed you about a previous job?

**Ans:**

Again, this question could get you in trouble so tread carefully. Some good answers might be that your previous job didn't provide any room for growth, that you were laid off due to a mandatory reduction in staff, that they closed their office in your state and required you to relocate, etc. Make sure not to mention anything negative about the people you worked with, the company in general or the job itself.

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**Question - 26:**

Are you willing to work overtime or odd hours?

**Ans:**

Be completely honest. You don't want to lie to get the job if you're not going to work the hours required.

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**Question - 27:**

Do you have any blind spots?

**Ans:**

This question is often meant to trick candidates since acknowledgment of blind spots would indicate they were aware of them. Also, do not disclose bad habits or other personal concerns. Let the interviewer find out about your personal flaws through the course of the interview without directly stating these flaws.

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**Question - 28:**

Describe your work ethic?

**Ans:**

While discussing this, be sure to stress specific examples of what you bring to the company. Good qualities include resolve to fulfill job responsibilities, optimism, and a desire to be as efficient as possible while at work.

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**Question - 29:**

Do you think you are overqualified for this position As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

No matter your previous job experience or educational background, be sure to tell the interviewer you have the knowledge and skills to successfully execute the job responsibilities.

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**Question - 30:**

How do you propose to compensate for your lack of experience?

**Ans:**

The first thing you should do is discuss experience you have the interviewer is unfamiliar with. Once that is detailed, tell the person conducting the interview that you are able to learn new tasks and information in a reasonable period of time and possess a strong work ethic. However, only state this if you can live up to these expectations.

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**Question - 31:**

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 - 32:**

You are not given the tools you need to be successful. How would you change that As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

State a business case to your manager / leader as to why you need the tools and make the request for them.

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**Question - 33:**

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 - 34:**

Tell me about a time you had to fire a friend?

**Ans:**

Hopefully you've never had to do this, but if you did, talk about how hard it was personally to fire anyone but that you did it objectively.

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**Question - 35:**

Why do you want to work in this industry As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

Make sure you research the industry first. Then find at least 3 core things about that industry that you're passionate about (for example: how their solutions impact clients, their culture, the leadership, etc)

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**Question - 36:**

What did you major in and why?

**Ans:**

Tell them your major and the motivations behind why you chose it and how it's helped to prep you of this potential job.

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**Question - 37:**

Describe your academic achievements?

**Ans:**

Think of a time where you really stood out and shined within college. It could be a leadership role in a project, it could be your great grades that demonstrate your intelligence and discipline, it could be the fact that you double majored. Where have you shined?

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**Question - 38:**

Describe your vision of your perfect dream job?

**Ans:**

Ideally, the role you're applying for either is that dream job or will help you get to it. If it's going to help you get there, describe the elements of that job role that you are passionate about so that it ties to the vision of what your dream job is. Be honest and talk about the type of work environment, management team / leadership, coworkers, culture, vision and products/services you'd like your dream job to entail.

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**Question - 39:**

Do you have the ability to articulate a vision and to get others involved to carry it out?

**Ans:**

If yes, then share an example of how you've done so at work or college. If not, then discuss how you would do so. Example: "I would first understand the goals of the staff members and then I would align those to the goals of the project / company. Then I would articulate the vision of that alignment and ask them to participate. From there, we would delegate tasks among the team and then follow up on a date and time to ensure follow through on the tasks. Lastly, we would review the results together."

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**Question - 40:**

What other companies are you interviewing at?

**Ans:**

Be open and share if you are indeed interviewing elsewhere, but do it in a humble way. This way you don't seem arrogant and the interviewer knows your skills are valued by other companies. This also tends to make them want you more as they know they are competing for your services.

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**Question - 41:**

Describe a time where you've failed and bounced back?

**Ans:**

Share a story to describe this. For example: "I accidentally made the mistake of telling a customer I could deliver on a solution set on a certain date and then later found out our business partner couldn't do it on that time. I learned that I shouldn't rush into important decisions and promises like this and that I should always check with my counterparts first before committing to a statement of work."

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**Question - 42:**

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 - 43:**

What would you like to have accomplished by the end of your career?

**Ans:**

Think of 3 major achievements that you'd like to accomplish in your job when all is said and done - and think BIG. You want to show you expect to be a major contributor at the company. It could be creating a revolutionary new product, it could be implementing a new effective way of marketing, etc.

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**Question - 44:**

What are your thoughts about working from home?

**Ans:**

This is a new policy some companies are adopting. If the company you are interviewing for allows for it, then you should be thankful for the flexibility and convenience yet state that working from home is a privilege that you would honor. The key point you want to make is that you would still be able to focus and be just as productive working at home.

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**Question - 45:**

What are the goals you've set for yourself?

**Ans:**

You could discuss your goals with regards to these categories: Career goals, impact you want to leave on society, financial goals, academic goals, charitable goals.

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**Question - 46:**

What have you done to improve yourself in the last year As Payroll Administrator?

**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 - 47:**

What were the responsibilities of your last position As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

If you want to show your ambition, you can discuss how you haven't reached all of your goals yet and in that sense aren't satisfied. However, if you want to discuss satisfaction from your job discuss an experience in which you achieved something.

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**Question - 48:**

What do you look for in terms of culture -- structured or entrepreneurial?

**Ans:**

A good answer is to discuss the importance of having both elements in a company As Payroll Administrator. Structure is good to maintain a focus on priorities and making sure people are productive but having an entrepreneurial spirit can help cultivate new ideas that can truly help the company.

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**Question - 49:**





What do you like to do?

**Ans:**

Discuss your passions As Payroll Administrator. Ideally if it's work related that's fantastic! If not, talk about your academic / extracurricular passions and WHY you enjoy them. For example: I love playing sports because of the team work aspect - it's fun winning together! (This example shows you're a team player)

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**Question - 50:**

How do you feel about taking no for an answer?

**Ans:**

It's good to be persistent, but not overbearing. Everyone will face rejection at some point in their life, so at some point you'll have to take no for an answer but then learn why you were turned down.

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**Question - 51:**

How would you feel about working for someone who knows less than you As Payroll Administrator?

**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 - 52:**

How would you go about establishing your credibility quickly As Payroll Administrator with the team?

**Ans:**

Fully understand my responsibilities, work hard and exceed expectations, learn as much as possible, help others as much as possible, understand what my teammates' goals and needs are, be on time, and gain a mentor.

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**Question - 53:**

What do you see yourself doing within the first 30 days of this job?

**Ans:**

Typically the first 30 days are designed for you to learn as much as possible As Payroll Administrator. Work hard to get to know your teammates, how they work together, and how you can make the biggest impact.

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**Question - 54:**

Do you have good manners? What types of people need to be treated with good manners?

**Ans:**

You should have good manners. Everyone should be treated with courtesy and respect.

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**Question - 55:**

How do you continue learning on a daily basis? Why is continuous improvement necessary As Payroll Administrator?

**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 - 56:**

What does "thinking outside the box" mean to you?

**Ans:**

It means not doing things exactly the same way as everyone else. You've got to challenge the status quo and bring something new to the business.

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**Question - 57:**

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 - 58:**

Are you aggressive?



**Ans:**

If you are, describe it through a story / experience that you had. If you aren't, then explain why you're not. If the job role asks for you to be aggressive/not aggressive and you're the opposite of it, explain how you would develop that characteristic.

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**Question - 59:**

Are you willing to work in shifts?

**Ans:**

If the job calls for shifts that vary, be ready to do that for your work. If you aren't open to that, then explain why and see if they can adjust it for you.

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**Question - 60:**

How do you ensure all of your work gets accomplished in a productive manner?

**Ans:**

The key is to prioritize what's important in your work and to stay organized to accomplish the tasks. A strong work ethic also helps.

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**Question - 61:**

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 - 62:**

What do you expect from this job As Payroll Administrator?

**Ans:**

Talk about the potential career development, your career aspirations, your work relationships and the learning you'll receive.

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