

Mortuary Assistant Job Interview Questions And Answers



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Mortuary Assistant Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

Question - 1:

Why did you choose to become a Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

I feel I have been chosen to do this work. To give back, to help others and to share and be supportive to others during their struggles with loss and honouring the life of their loved ones.

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Question - 2:

Tell me most hideous career moment to date?

Ans:

I've probably had several of those too but certainly cutting myself during a High Risk post-mortem was the worst as it involves a lot of medical treatment.

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Question - 3:

Tell me what are your weaknesses for Mortuary assistant position?

Ans:

Try not to be too critical when answering this question. Instead, pick one of your weaknesses and try to turn it into a positive.

For example, you could be a perfectionist, which means that you sometimes take longer on tasks, but you make sure that they are completed to a high quality. It is important to make a negative into a positive as it doesn't make you appear overly critical and shows you can reflect on your own performance.

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Question - 4:

Explain most glorious career moment to date?

Ans:

I'm lucky enough to have had several! Being a part of a BBC documentary series called The Death Detectives was a lot of fun but working in the temporary mortuary set up for the 7th July London Bombings was also very rewarding.

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Question - 5:

Explain some danger factors?

Ans:

There are very many inherent risks associated with this job. Not only sharps injuries from scalpels and syringes, but blood-borne and air-borne infections, chemical burns and manual handling injuries. Health and Safety is paramount, as are Manual Handling Training, COSHH knowledge, up to date SOP's, First Aid and many, many bits of paper and courses full of acronyms!

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Question - 6:

Tell me what can you offer me that another person can't?

Ans:

This is when you talk about your record of getting things done. Go into specifics from your résumé and portfolio; show an employer your value and how you'd be an asset.

I'm the best person for the job. I know there are other candidates who could fill this position, but my passion for excellence sets me apart from the pack. I am committed to always producing the best results. For example...

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Question - 7:



Do you know secondary Tasks for Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

A pathologist may ask you to perform additional tasks, depending on your skill level and their needs at the time. These tasks include preserving and photographing specimens; staining slides; and mixing preservation fluids according to specific formulas. You may also be asked to fill a body's cranium with plaster and sew up incisions using a surgical needle and thread.

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Question - 8:

Tell us any other funerals that stand out in your memory?

Ans:

One time we had a person who did some acting and modeling in California. A hand model. The family came in early to set up pictures and things. I showed them in, helped them get started then left them. I came back about 10 minutes later to check on them and just about every picture they put up was this person's hands from the various ads they did. There were some family photos, but most were a pair of hands.

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Question - 9:

What knowledge and Education required for Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

No specific educational requirements exist for morgue attendants. However, most employers require you to have at least a high school diploma or GED. Demonstrating an aptitude for math, biology, computers and communication is particularly helpful. Prior experience working in a morgue or coroner's office is even better. You may also choose to pursue an associate degree in clinical lab or health science to advance more quickly and take on more complex tasks.

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Question - 10:

Tell me what is the most difficult part of being a Funeral Attendant?

Ans:

Because of empathizing, it may be difficult to hold back tears.

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Question - 11:

What is salary and Economic Outlook for Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

The median hourly wage in May of 2012 for all medical assistants -- including morgue attendants -- was \$14.12, while the median annual wage was \$29,370, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. On average, pay is greater for morgue attendants than others with no college education. Wages can reach \$33,000 per year for those with only a high school degree, while those with an associate degree earn more. Jobs as medical assistants are expected to increase 31 percent between 2010 and 2020. In addition, many of the skills acquired are transferable to other medical fields.

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Question - 12:

Tell me are you able to empathize with grieving people?

Ans:

Yes, very much so. I feel I would be able to help them take some of the heaviness off their heart and soul and carry them forward with their memories.

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Question - 13:

Explain why do you want to work as Mortuary assistant for this organisation?

Ans:

Being unfamiliar with the organisation will spoil your chances with 75% of interviewers, according to one survey, so take this chance to show you have done your preparation and know the company inside and out. You will now have the chance to demonstrate that you've done your research, so reply mentioning all the positive things you have found out about the organisation and its sector etc. This means you'll have an enjoyable work environment and stability of employment etc - everything that brings out the best in you.

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Question - 14:

Tell me your salary requirements as Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

Find out what the salary is for the job that is possible ahead of time. If there is no salary posted then do some research. Find out what the market is paying and what you are worth. Make a reasonable salary offer based on this information. Do your best to avoid making a salary offer if you can. You can ask the employer if they have a salary range they plan to pay the person in this position.

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Question - 15:

Explain essential Tasks for Mortuary Assistant?

**Ans:**

Prior to an examination of a body, you must lay out all surgical instruments and lab supplies, and ensure that they are in good working order. This includes sharpening knives and scalpels when necessary. You may use a portable hoist to place the body on the examining table or in a refrigeration unit. During the exam, you assist the pathologist and record any identifying information for the patient's morgue file. Afterward, you must thoroughly clean all instruments and trays, replace dirty linens, and wash the table. You are also responsible for releasing the body to an authorized party according to facility procedures.

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Question - 16:

Do you know what are the not-so-perky parts of it?

Ans:

Taking part in an on-call rota and having a pager hound you 24-7 can be difficult, as well as carrying out post-mortems at strange times: very early in the morning or very late at night. I think the other not-so-perky parts are the stuff of most people's nightmares such as being smeared with every possible human excretion or having to carry out an autopsy with maggots wriggling over you or flies buzzing around you (or on an exhumed or embalmed body). You have to shoulder lots of cleaning and repetitive tasks, dealing with difficult family members or doctors... The list is endless, really.

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Question - 17:

Explain what is the most embarrassing thing you've done to a cadaver?

Ans:

I had this guy to prep one time. He had an intubater ... this tube down his throat and was taped on his face. One piece of the tape was across his mustache. When I took the tape off, most of his mustache came with it. So I shaved it. The wife was super pissed. She threatened to sue unless we fixed it. So what am I to do? I went to a costume shop and bought a pack of fake mustaches. We had a picture of him, but none of these mustaches worked. I picked the best possible match and put it on him. We then called her to come look. We were nervous. It was bad. So she comes in and absolutely loves it! I couldn't believe it. She then turned super sweet and hugged me.

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Question - 18:

What would you like to be doing five years from now as Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

The safest answer contains a desire to be regarded as a true professional and team player. As far as promotion, that depends on finding a manager with whom you can grow. Of course, you will ask what opportunities exist within the company before being any more specific: "From my research and what you have told me about the growth here, it seems operations is where the heavy emphasis is going to be. It seems that's where you need the effort and where I could contribute toward the company's goals." Or, "I have always felt that first-hand knowledge and experience open up opportunities that one might never have considered, so while at this point in time I plan to be a part of [e.g.] operations, it is reasonable to expect that other exciting opportunities will crop up in the meantime."

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Question - 19:

Strengths and Weaknesses Based Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * What do you believe are your key strengths?
- * Tell us about the last time you had to negotiate with someone.
- * What type of work environment do you prefer?
- * What is a typical career path in this job function?
- * When was the last time you were in a crises?

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Question - 20:

Situational Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * Where do you see yourself in five years time?
- * Situation in which you had to arrive at a compromise.
- * What relevant experience do you have?
- * You have not done this sort of job before. How will you succeed?
- * How did you handle meeting a tight deadline?

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Question - 21:

Competency Based Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * How do you feel about taking no for an answer?
- * When given an important assignment, how do you approach it?
- * Tell about a time that you had to adapt to a difficult situation.
- * Tell me about yourself.
- * What was the most stressful situation you have faced?

Never interrupt - even where the question is obvious, wait for the interviewer to finish before your reply. Make sure your eye contact with the interviewers during the interview. These Morgue Attendant interview questions are asked to see if potential employees have critical thinking skills and self-awareness.

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Question - 22:

Video Based Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * How did you react when faced with constant time pressure?
- * What were the responsibilities of your last position?
- * What would make you happy in a job?
- * How do you think you can make a contribution to this company?
- * How have you changed in the last five years?

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Question - 23:

Behavioral Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * Example when you went above and beyond the call of duty.
- * Do you know anyone who works with our company?
- * What kind of personality do you work best with and why?
- * Has anything ever irritated you about people you've worked with?
- * What steps do you follow to study a problem before making a decision?

Answer Morgue Attendant interview questions honestly and to the best of your ability. If interviewing for a professional-level position, be ready to answer questions about standards within the industry.

Don't get trivial or negative answering Morgue Attendant interview questions.

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Question - 24:

Phone Based Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * Tell me about an important goal that you set in the past.
- * How would you describe the experience of working here?
- * What has been your biggest professional disappointment?
- * What are you expecting from this firm in the future?
- * Who was your favorite manager and why?

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Question - 25:

Communication skills Based Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * How do you see your job relating to the overall goals?
- * Your greatest weakness in school or at work?
- * Who has impacted you most in your career and how?
- * What have you done to support diversity in your unit?
- * Describe a recent unpopular decision you made.

Answer all Morgue Attendant interview questions honestly and stay focused throughout the hiring process.

Always focus on the positive reason such you were seeking the opportunity to expand your career opportunities.

Don't be too specific by giving away a word for a particular period of time.

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Question - 26:

Basic Morgue Attendant interview questions:

Ans:

- * Do you prefer to work independently or on a team?
- * How long would you stay with our company?
- * What have you learned from mistakes on the job?
- * What can you do for us that other candidates cant?
- * Do you think you are overqualified for this position?

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Question - 27:

Do you know what sort of qualifications/training do you need?

Ans:

In principle you just need a good basic education (GCSE's etc) as the specific training you require to be an Anatomical Pathology Technician (APT) is done on the job. You do a Certificate in Anatomical Pathology Technology which takes 2 years. You can then do a further 2 years to receive a Diploma in Anatomical Pathology Technology which will allow you to do autopsies on High Risk Cases (such as TB, HIV, Hepatitis and swine flu) and enable you to progress to mortuary manager.

However, places are very competitive and there is a welcome emphasis on Continuing Professional Development within this career. I had a Forensic and Biomolecular Science HND by the time I applied for my post, and most people applying nowadays will hold something similar.

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Question - 28:

Tell me will there ever be a job you refuse to do?



Ans:

I've seen pictures and have heard about people being embalmed and placed on a motorcycle, stood up in the corner, in a recliner ... This all seems ridiculous and disrespectful to me. Especially if the deceased did not request it. I say I would refuse to do this to someone, but who knows? I mean, if the family really wants it.

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Question - 29:

Have you got any questions for us?

Ans:

This is your final opportunity to persuade the interviewer that you are the right candidate for the job. Now is not the time to ask questions about holidays, pay or pensions - all these things can be asked later when you get an offer of employment. Now is the time to ask about any reservations that the interviewer may have about your suitability for the role. You will then give yourself one last chance to persuade the interviewer that you are the right candidate for the job.

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Question - 30:

Tell me what advice would you give to anyone interested in becoming a mortuary technician?

Ans:

You have to apply for a position as a Trainee APT - there is no other way to do it except to start as a trainee. It will definitely help you to have Forensic knowledge or previous science qualifications such as Microbiology, Human Anatomy or Anthropology but it won't guarantee you an interview. Places are very competitive and many APT's move to different cities to get a foot on the ladder or move up a rung.

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Question - 31:

Explain what is the pay like?

Ans:

The pay isn't fantastic as a rule, and it does differ if you're in a hospital mortuary run by the NHS, or a Public Mortuary run by a Local Authority. It's not particularly bad, and it's graded as other jobs are in those organisations, but it's not a job you do for the money... there are far easier ways to earn it!

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Question - 32:

Tell me what is the strangest request that you've ever received for a funeral service?

Ans:

We had a dead clown one time. This person was buried in full clown costume with makeup and all. The whole family was clowns. All the friends were clowns. And at the family's request, the funeral directors were clowns too. They supplied costumes and did our makeup. Family and friends had one tear drop painted on near the eye. Definitely my strangest.

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Question - 33:

Tell me do you have any experiences being in a funeral home?

Ans:

No, but I am a fast learner and a hard worker. I am committed to do the best of my ability.

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Question - 34:

Explain did you go into the business by your own choice?

Ans:

Yes, I did. I was fascinated by the industry as a kid. When I was 12, there was a bad head on collision near my house and a man in a truck didn't make it. My family and I were standing around with all the other neighbors when the coroner arrived. He pronounced him deceased, then they took him out and put him on a stretcher and his head turned to the side looking straight at me. I remember being curious as to what happens to people when they die, as far as the physical body.

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Question - 35:

Explain what are three positive things your last boss would say about you?

Ans:

It's time to pull out your old performance appraisals and boss's quotes. This is a great way to brag about yourself through someone else's words: "My boss has told me that I am the best designer he has ever had. He knows he can rely on me, and he likes my sense of humor."

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Question - 36:

What are necessary Skills required for Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

Effective reading, writing and speaking skills are essential for communicating with other clinical professionals, as well as lay people. You should be able to solve and identify problems through scientific methodology; organize information quickly; and properly evaluate the quality of products and supplies. The position requires sound judgment, critical thinking and the ability to actively listen. Manual dexterity in the wrist and fingers, a steady arm and good near vision are also crucial for assisting in actual exams.



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Question - 37:

Tell me is it a job for life? How does one progress from being a Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

For many people being an APT will be (rather ironically) a job for life and they will progress from certificate and diploma levels through to becoming mortuary managers. However, the higher up you move, the less involved with Pathology and post-mortems you become (depending on where you work). I found that as a Senior APT (after 8 years on the job) I was out of the PM room more and more, dealing with paperwork and other commitments. I believe that the step I took, to become Pathology Museum Technician and Assistant Curator at St Bart's has been absolutely perfect for me, and that all the experience I went through previously was leading me to this post. I use my knowledge of anatomy and pathology daily, I use my teaching and presentation skills constantly but I also get to manage my own time, oversee others and have an enormous amount of creative control.

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Question - 38:

Tell me have you ever dealt with grieving people?

Ans:

Yes i have dealt with my own family greiving and i have dealt with customers from the bank who have lose a loved one.

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Question - 39:

Tell us are women creeped out by your career choice?

Ans:

Some are. I like to date other morticians or nurses. They seem to understand and are over the whole novelty of it.

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Question - 40:

Tell me when you cremate someone, how often do the ashes from previous customers make it into the current customer's mix?

Ans:

There is some co-mingling involved, although very minimal. It is unavoidable since you can't get every single grain out. As long as you sweep it properly after each person, it is very minimal.

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Question - 41:

Explain a difficult situation you have overcome in the workplace?

Ans:

Conflict resolution, problem solving, communication and coping under pressure are transferable skills desired by many employers.

Answering this question right can help you demonstrate all of these traits.

* Use real-life examples from your previous roles that you are comfortable explaining

* Choose an example that demonstrates the role you played in resolving the situation clearly

* Remain professional at all times - you need to demonstrate that you can keep a cool head and know how to communicate with people

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Question - 42:

Why did you leave your last job as Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

Whatever the situation was from your previous job, you should always answer this question with a positive and enthusiastic response. If the reason for leaving your last job was redundancy, then you should talk about how your company had to restructure, instead of focusing on your own personal situation.

Under no circumstances should you criticise your previous employer, as this will appear unprofessional.

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Question - 43:

Tell me have any tips for funeral students trying to get an apprenticeship at a funeral home?

Ans:

Follow up. Call funeral homes and ask to just meet with a director to ask questions about the industry. Above all, just keep at it. Eventually a door will open.

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Question - 44:

Tell me how physically/mentally demanding is the job?

Ans:

Being a mortuary technician is far more demanding than anyone can probably comprehend unless they've done similar work. The job will take it out of you physically as it involves lots of moving heavy bodies around. And, of course, standing on your feet to carry out an autopsy which will take 1-3 hours. Some Forensic PM's can take around 12 hours. You will not sit down all day if you work in a busy environment as autopsies will then give way to releasing patients to Funeral Directors and preparing them for viewings.

On TV, the Pathologist will carry out the evisceration of the body (that is, the removal of the organs.) In real life it is the APT who does this and it's not easy - it



involves lots of tools and hauling heavy bowls and trays around. Unless you've had the experience of this (which most people won't have!) you can't imagine how dense and heavy human organs are.

And, of course, mentally it will be very draining and some of the more progressive mortuaries will understand the need for debriefing sessions and supervision (a type of counselling) of APT's. Because most of the information you'll take in is confidential it means there aren't really many ways for you to 'unburden' yourself so it can be very tough unless you have a good relationship with your colleagues.

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Question - 45:

Tell me what made you become a mortuary technician?

Ans:

It's something I always wanted to do, literally since I was 8 or 9 years old. I never knew the actual name for the job but I knew I wanted to be involved in autopsies and discovering causes of death. I think with this kind of career you know from the start that you were meant to do it.

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Question - 46:

Tell me what exactly happens to the eyes during an embalming? Do you glue the lips of the dead person together?

Ans:

The eyes usually start to flatten after death. Think of an old grape. They do, however, remain with the decedent. We don't remove them. You can use what is called an eye cap to put over the flattened eyeball to recreate the natural curvature of the eye. You can also inject tissue builder directly into the eyeball and fill it up. And sometimes, the embalming fluid will fill the eye to normal size.

Yes, the eyes and lips are glued together.

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Question - 47:

Where do you see yourself in 5 years as Mortuary Assistant?

Ans:

I wish to learn more about the funeral services business and hope to become licensed. I feel I belong in this industry and wish this to be my place, my career until I retire.

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Question - 48:

Tell me would you be embalmed yourself? Or would you want to be cremated?

Ans:

I'm ok with being embalmed and buried. I'm also ok with being cremated. I will let my family choose the method which best suits them at the time.

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Question - 49:

Please tell us how long would you expect to work for us if hired?

Ans:

I would like to make a career out of it. Until retirement.

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Question - 50:

what kind of person would make a good mortician?

Ans:

It's funny. I was a waiter for many years in my younger days. I always say, if you can be a successful waiter, you can be a successful funeral director. They are similar in many ways. They both wait on families and provide what should be excellent customer service. The only difference is that one puts a pizza in the oven and the other puts a body in the oven.

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Question - 51:

Tell me what does your working day look like?

Ans:

I now spend my days in a beautiful Grade II Listed Building on the grounds of St Bart's Hospital, surrounded by over 5000 anatomical specimens (the oldest of which is from 1756). I conserve the 'pots' by cleaning them and topping them up, and I also arrange them and catalogue them. I'm helping to design a new public website and working on some very interesting Public Engagement projects to really bring Pathology to life (excuse the pun...) I have a unique seminar series coming up which includes a lecture on the death of Marilyn Monroe, a vampire evening (complete with ingestible blood) which is also to coincide with National Pathology Year's blood month (November) and a talk from Joanna Ebenstein of the blog 'Morbid Anatomy' who is coming all the way from New York.

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Question - 52:

Tell me do you have any advice for those wanting to get into the funeral business?

Ans:

Networking is a great tool. Knowing people at a removal service in a larger area is a good thing since they have contact with the majority of the funeral homes. Also,



I did my apprenticeship at an embalming service and learned invaluable skills. As an embalmer you are much more marketable.

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Question - 53:

Can you explain how do you handle stressful situations?

Ans:

I remain composed, even if i do not feel composed, I deal with the situation in a cool calm and collected manner.

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Question - 54:

Explain me what are your career goals?

Ans:

Helping others with their loss and moving forward and helping people with honouring their missed loved ones.

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