

# Financial Controller Job Interview Questions And Answers



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## Financial Controller Interview Questions And Answers Guide.

### Question - 1:

Explain a tough financial analysis problem you faced recently?

#### Ans:

Your ability to identify key issues and detect problems from relevant information is key in your answer. Your skill in breaking down, organizing and analyzing information is under the spotlight with this interview question.

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### Question - 2:

Tell me an example of a win win situation you negotiated?

#### Ans:

This financial interview question explores your ability to communicate information or alternatives in a manner that gains agreement and acceptance. Show how you are able to look at the position of others, present alternatives and reach an agreement that is positive for all parties.

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### Question - 3:

What motivates you in your job as Financial Controller?

#### Ans:

Finance interview questions that examine your motivation are designed to assess whether you will be a good motivational fit with the job opportunity and the company. Make your motivation relevant to what the finance job provides. Most finance positions require self-motivated people whose motivators include managing a challenge, getting the required results, achievement and recognition.

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### Question - 4:

What Are Your Salary Requirements and Expectations as Financial Controller?

#### Ans:

You want to be paid as much as you can, while the hiring firm wants to get your services for as little as they can. Do not undersell yourself and your abilities, but do not make your demands so high that that you are rejected out of hand as a potential hire if you would settle for less.

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### Question - 5:

Tell me what has been a major achievement in your working career?

#### Ans:

Discuss a relevant achievement, the challenges you faced in getting there and what made you successful. Discuss why it was important to you, making the reasons relevant to the finance job you are interviewing for. Emphasize how your achievement can be translated into success in this position.

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### Question - 6:

Tell me at the end of the year, what will success in this job look like?

#### Ans:

Beyond the preliminary deliverables, it's important to understand what the employer expects from the winning candidate over the longer haul - after their first, full year, for example, once all the attendant kinks have been worked out and the learning curves mastered.

With the employer painting the picture for you, you'll be able to visualize how all your skills and experiences could help you reach that landmark.

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### Question - 7:

Tell me how do you go about persuading others to your point of view?



**Ans:**

Finance professionals regularly have to persuade and influence people to accept their services, their expertise and their advice. Determining needs, selecting the most suitable approach and deciding on the right interpersonal style are all factors in successfully influencing others. Support your answer with a recent example.

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**Question - 8:**

Why Did You Quit a Given Job as Financial Controller?

**Ans:**

If the interviewer asks about why you quit a certain job, or why there are gaps in your resume, what should you say? This short video addresses that difficult question. There are many valid reasons that interviewers are unlikely to hold against you in assessing you as a job candidate. However, presenting your reasons awkwardly or unconvincingly definitely is bound to raise questions about you and damage your chances. Be sure that you rehearse your explanations in accordance with these suggestions.

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**Question - 9:**

Tell me what are your strengths and weaknesses as a finance professional?

**Ans:**

Provide an interview answer that demonstrates your self awareness and insight.

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**Question - 10:**

Explain me about a recent high stress situation you were in. How did you manage it?

**Ans:**

Finance jobs demand the ability to work well under pressure. The interviewer wants to know whether you are able to perform under stress and cope with difficult situations. Show that you can stay calm and are able to plan to reduce stress.

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**Question - 11:**

As you know I'm curious - how did you come to find out about our company and what do you know about us?

**Ans:**

This can be a great way to stand out from other applicants and demonstrate initiative. Almost every company will have a website, Facebook page, Instagram account, or some sort of digital footprint. Spend a bit of time doing some online research:

- \* If they have a website, check out their "About us" or "Culture/Mission/Vision" pages.
- \* Who are some of the principal people who work there? Who are the founders?
- \* What sorts of things does this company care about? Do they donate to a particular cause or charity? Which one(s)?
- \* What are their core values? Which of their core values resonate with you?
- \* Has the company been in the news recently or have they won any awards (Social Media can be a great place to find this information).

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**Question - 12:**

What Can You Contribute as Financial Controller?

**Ans:**

As we have discussed elsewhere, the key to getting a job is not a dry recitation of experiences and accomplishments, but a dynamic demonstration of what you can do for the person and organization with which you are interviewing.

To succeed in marketing yourself, put yourself in the place of the hiring manager. What can you do for them in the future? How can you make their lives easier? How can you make them more successful?

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**Question - 13:**

Tell me what experience do you have when it comes to discussing our recently posted HOTEL FINANCIAL CONTROLLER position?

**Ans:**

Ever since my first paper route at age 10 I've been doing something to keep myself busy and earn money. Back then, it was obviously about earning some spending money. What I didn't realize was that I was actually starting the journey of establishing what I liked to do and how I fit in to the grand scheme of things. I then worked as a junior computer tech in my last 2 summers of high school. It was here that I discovered what I was passionate about and what I wanted to do. I enrolled in college to get my degree in computer sciences, and I have been working around technology ever since.

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**Question - 14:**

Tell us I don't expect you to go into too much detail - but why are you leaving your last job?

**Ans:**

An innocent question. But a question that if answered improperly, can be a deal breaker. While many individuals will be looking to a new job as a means of increasing their salary, "not being paid well enough at your last job" is not something you want to mention to your interviewer. After all, are you not likely to leave this particular job if you found you could make more down the street?

If you're currently employed and leaving of your own accord, craft your response around enhancing your career development and a seeking out of new challenges.

If your current employer is downsizing, be honest about it, remain positive, but keep it brief. If your employer fired you or let you go for cause, be prepared to give a brief - but honest - reply. No matter how tempting it may be, or how "unfair it was that they let you go" steer clear away from any and all drama and negativity. Any



experienced employer understands that sometimes things happen. Staying positive is key here.

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### Question - 15:

Tell me what deliverables should I shoot for in the first 30, 60 and 90 days, respectively?

#### Ans:

A prospective employer or hiring manager will typically use the interview to give a broad idea both of what the position entails, and of what skills, qualities, and personality they're looking for in a successful candidate.

But interviewers tend to be coy about how precisely a new hire's performance will be evaluated in the early-going - that is, what specific, concrete benchmarks they'll need to reach in order to meet expectations and survive beyond the probationary period.

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### Question - 16:

Basic Financial Controller Job Interview Questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What are your strengths?
- \* What are your weaknesses?
- \* Why are you interested in working for [insert company name here]?
- \* Where do you see yourself in 5 years? 10 years?
- \* Why do you want to leave your current company?
- \* Why was there a gap in your employment between [insert date] and [insert date]?
- \* What can you offer us that someone else can not?
- \* What are three things your former manager would like you to improve on?
- \* Are you willing to relocate?
- \* Are you willing to travel?
- \* Tell me about an accomplishment you are most proud of.
- \* Tell me about a time you made a mistake.
- \* What is your dream job?
- \* How did you hear about this position?
- \* What would you look to accomplish in the first 30 days/60 days/90 days on the job?

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### Question - 17:

General Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What research have you done on our firm and our industry?
- \* What does trust mean to you?
- \* Would he or she recommend you for another job?
- \* What qualities do you find important in a co-worker?
- \* What are your lifetime goals?
- \* Which of your jobs was the best?
- \* What two or three things are most important to you in a job?

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### Question - 18:

Basic Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Do you know anyone who works with our company?
- \* How would you describe your work style?
- \* What are you looking for in terms of career development?
- \* Example when you went above and beyond the call of duty.
- \* Are you planning to continue your studies?

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### Question - 19:

Communication skills based Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What have you done to support diversity in your unit?
- \* What support training would you require to be able to do this job?
- \* What major challenges and problems did you face?
- \* What do you think this position involves.
- \* What's most important to you in a new position?

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### Question - 20:

Situational Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* How do you evaluate your ability to handle conflict?
- \* Have you ever had difficulty working with a manager?



- \* What have you been doing since your last job?
- \* What do you think you can bring to this position?
- \* What is the difference between a good position and an excellent one?

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### Question - 21:

Professional Financial Controller Job Interview Questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Discuss your resume.
- \* Discuss your educational background.
- \* Describe yourself.
- \* Tell me how you handled a difficult situation.
- \* Why should we hire you?
- \* Why are you looking for a new job?
- \* Would you work holidays/weekends?
- \* How would you deal with an angry or irate customer?
- \* What are your salary requirements?
- \* Give a time when you went above and beyond the requirements for a project.
- \* Who are our competitors?
- \* What was your biggest failure?
- \* What motivates you?
- \* What's your availability?
- \* Who's your mentor?
- \* Tell me about a time when you disagreed with your boss.
- \* How do you handle pressure?
- \* What is the name of our CEO?
- \* What are your career goals?
- \* What gets you up in the morning?
- \* What would your direct reports say about you?
- \* What were your bosses' strengths/weaknesses?
- \* If I called your boss right now and asked him what is an area that you could improve on, what would he say?
- \* Are you a leader or a follower?
- \* What was the last book you've read for fun?
- \* What are your co-worker pet peeves?
- \* What are your hobbies?
- \* What is your favorite website?
- \* What makes you uncomfortable?
- \* What are some of your leadership experiences?
- \* How would you fire someone?
- \* What do you like the most and least about working in this industry?
- \* Would you work 40+ hours a week?
- \* What questions haven't I asked you?
- \* What questions do you have for me?

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### Question - 22:

Phone Based Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Describe a team experience you found disappointing. What could you have done to prevent it?
- \* Give an example of a time when you assisted a co-worker to enhance their work skills?
- \* What do you like least about your job?
- \* What was the toughest problem you had to solve?
- \* Tell me what are the first 5 things you would do if you got this position?
- \* To what extent do your grades reflect how much you learned?
- \* What were your favorite courses in school?

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### Question - 23:

Behavioral Assistant financial controller job interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What can you do for us that other candidates cant?
- \* Give me an example of a high-pressure situation?
- \* Give an example of a time you successfully worked on a team.
- \* What kind of personality do you work best with and why?
- \* What do you like and dislike about the job we are discussing?

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### Question - 24:

Group Based Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What type of management style do you thrive under?
- \* What parts of your education do you see as relevant to this Financial Controller position?
- \* What do people most often criticize about you?



- \* You have not done Financial Controller job before. How will you succeed?
- \* Who has impacted you most in your career and how?
- \* Examples of situations when your initiative ideas for improvement have made a significant difference.
- \* How do you make your decisions in general?

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### Question - 25:

Panel Based Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Give me an example that best describes your organizational skills.
- \* How would you describe your presentation style?
- \* Tell about a problem that you solved in a unique or unusual way.
- \* Example when you went above and beyond the call of duty.
- \* What is your usual role in a team?
- \* Give an example when you had to explain a complex technical issue to someone.
- \* Give some examples of teamwork as Financial Controller.

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### Question - 26:

Video Based Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Situation in which you had to arrive at a compromise.
- \* Describe a situation in which you had to collect information.
- \* How would you weigh a plane without scales?
- \* What was the most difficult period in your life, and how did you deal with it?
- \* How did you react when faced with constant time pressure?

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### Question - 27:

Phone Based Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Tell me about yourself.
- \* Who was your favorite manager and why?
- \* What are you expecting from this firm in the future?
- \* What are your long-term goals or career plans?
- \* What has been your biggest professional disappointment?

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### Question - 28:

Competency Based Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Tell me about a difficult experience you had in working.
- \* What was the most complex assignment you have had?
- \* When given an important assignment, how do you approach it?
- \* What were your annual goals at your most current employer?
- \* What are three positive things your last boss would say about you?

Just confine your words to better opportunities. Emphasize benefits to the company. Don't be too specific by giving away a word for a particular period of time.

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### Question - 29:

Behavioral Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* Give me an example of a decision you made that benefited your company.
- \* I'm not sure you're suitable for the job, what do you think?
- \* What criteria are you using to choose companies to interview with?
- \* How did you hear about this position?
- \* How well defined is the job? Is there a written job description?
- \* How do you measure quality?
- \* What skills do you rely on most in your everyday work?

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### Question - 30:

Difficult Financial Controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* How do you see this job developing?
- \* How will you manage to come in on time to the office?
- \* What motivates you?
- \* How would you describe yourself as a manager?
- \* How do you handle tension?



- \* How do you continue learning on a daily basis?
- \* How would you define good customer service?

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### Question - 31:

General Financial Controller Job Interview Questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What are the most important factors to consider in budget development?
- \* What is the most challenging financial project you've ever worked on?
- \* Recall a time you identified a financial opportunity for your company.
- \* How have you reduced expenses at previous companies?
- \* What are the financial strengths and weaknesses of our industry?
- \* How has your leadership contributed to the success of your current/previous team?
- \* How have you increased revenues in previous companies you've worked for?
- \* Recall a time when you improved the quality of financial information or the efficiency of sharing financial information.
- \* What kinds of reports or presentations have you developed for executive teams?
- \* Do you have any experience in setting up accounting/financial reporting controls? If so, please give an example of a control you were able to design and implement.
- \* Recall a time when you introduced new technology to your staff.
- \* What kind of accounting/financial reporting software are you familiar with?
- \* What is your approach to hiring financial staff?
- \* How have you helped junior financial staff advance in their careers?
- \* Recall a time you had to motivate your team to complete a complex project under a tight deadline.
- \* How do you monitor and evaluate the performance of your team?
- \* Recall a time you had to persuade an executive team to make an important financial decision.

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### Question - 32:

Strengths and Weaknesses Based Assistant financial controller interview questions:

#### Ans:

- \* What assignment was too difficult for you?
- \* Tell me about your strengths.
- \* Who else have you applied to/got interviews with?
- \* List five words that describe your character.
- \* What do you believe are your key strengths?

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### Question - 33:

Tell me what are the biggest challenges and opportunities that the finance professional faces today?

#### Ans:

Highlight your awareness and insight into the current economic situation and the state of the financial sector including regulatory changes, reputation issues, availability of credit, cost reduction and recent industry innovations among others.

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### Question - 34:

Explain me about your approach to team work. How have you had to adapt to work effectively as part of a team?

#### Ans:

Finance interview questions about team work look at your ability to build relationships and contribute to team success. Your ability to work successfully with other people in the finance business is essential. Show how you have assessed each team member and selected the best approach for their particular needs. Adaptability is key to success.

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### Question - 35:

As you know our field is changing always. As such, what have you done with regards to personal development when it comes to a HOTEL FINANCIAL CONTROLLER POSITION in the last 12 months?

#### Ans:

That is a really great question. While I haven't had the opportunity to develop within this particular role per se, I have actually become very involved in my local foodbank this year. This has taught me a great deal about community, teamwork, and taking initiative. I took it upon myself to enroll in a summer business admin course at the local community college. Through this, I picked up some really great knowledge on communication and teamwork, as well as further develop overall managerial skills. Though it may not be directly applicable to this particular job, I believe the overall experience I gained could be a real asset here.

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### Question - 36:

Tell me how to get a job at Assistant Financial Controller?

#### Ans:

I am interested in a career at Assistant Financial Controller. I want to know what is the best way to get a job at Assistant Financial Controller. If you work at Assistant Financial Controller, how did you get in? How did you get the interview and offer from Assistant Financial Controller? Any specific thing I need to pay attention to in resume and interview preparation?





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**Question - 37:**

Why Were You Fired From a Given Job as Financial Controller?

**Ans:**

This is an even more difficult question to handle well. You need to be honest, but also to demonstrate conclusively that you are not a problem employee by nature, and thus that you represent a good risk for the current hiring manager and hiring company to bring onboard.

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**Question - 38:**

Tell me how does this particular role support you?

**Ans:**

It's important to understand where the job you're after is located on the company totem pole, and how your role would be linked to that of the individual you'd be reporting to (who in most cases will also be the person interviewing you).

Your prospective supervisor will in all likelihood have their own ideas about how a new hire will make their job easier, so be sure to ask them directly about how they see you supporting them. Plus, you'll likely earn bonus points by exhibiting an appropriate level of deference.

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**Question - 39:**

Tell me how can you add real value to this organization?

**Ans:**

Your interview answer should showcase your comprehensive research and knowledge of the company and how well you understand its achievements, its goals and the challenges it faces. Provide examples of the skills and ideas you bring that would result in a contribution to profits and growth.

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**Question - 40:**

Explain about a time when you successfully dealt with a difficult and demanding client?

**Ans:**

Here the employer is exploring your resilience and ability to persist in the face of a challenge. Setbacks and difficult clients are part of the financial business and you need to demonstrate your ability to deal with this. Provide an example that clearly shows your determination and the interpersonal skills used to reach a positive outcome.

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**Question - 41:**

What are your salary expectations as Financial Controller?

**Ans:**

Many consider this question to be a loaded gun - dangerous in the hands of the inexperienced. Often times, an interviewee will start talking salary before they've had an opportunity to illustrate their skill set and value making any sort of leverage valueless. Here, knowledge is power, as salary often comes down to negotiation. Do some research into your industry to establish base rates of pay based on seniority and demand but keep in mind - your employer is hiring you for what they believe you are worth, and how much benefit they feel you will provide.

One relatively safe approach is simply asking the interviewer about the salary range. If you wish to avoid the question entirely, respond by saying that "money isn't a key factor" and your primary goal is to advance in your career.

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**Question - 42:**

Tell me about your ability to work under pressure as Financial Controller?

**Ans:**

I'd like to think I react to situations as opposed to stress. The reality is, when handled correctly, many problems avoid becoming unnecessarily stressful. Come to think of it, I believe I actually work better under pressure. It's help me produce some of my best work and to be honest I like being challenged. From a stress management point of view, I like to burn off the day with a workout or by going for a run.

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