

Interview Questions Answers

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About Interview Questions Answers

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Best Of Luck.

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Question - 1:

Tell me how much of the global economy is comprised of the real estate sector?

Ans:

The commercial and residential real estate industry generated an estimated \$3 trillion in 2014, with some 35% of sector revenue coming from leasing activities. Other revenue was attributed to net gains from property sales, brokerage fees and rental income. Most estimates of total global gross domestic product fall in the \$75 trillion to \$90 trillion range, meaning the real estate sector makes up between 3.33% and 4% of total world output.

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Question - 2:

Tell me why do you want to work in private equity?

Ans:

Money, prestige, or a perception of the industry as the "next big thing" will get you shown the door. Of course, those already working in private equity would be lying if they said they didn't enjoy those things. But ultimately, once the money's in the bank and the person's name is in boldface in the newspaper, the challenge is what keeps them coming back. Private equity, to those in the industry, represents the very pinnacle of investing. Turning around whole companies, finding value where there doesn't appear to be any... these are what keep private equity folks in the game.

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Question - 3:

Explain What You Know About (Esoteric Industry Term)?

Ans

Interviewers love to test interviewees' knowledge by pulling out an arcane term that is specific to the industry and testing what you know about it. For example, do you know the difference between a triple net lease and a gross lease? (For reference, a triple net lease requires the tenant to pay taxes, insurance and building maintenance along with his rent, while a tenant with a gross lease pays only rent with the landlord covering the other expenses.)

View All Answers

Question - 4:

Tell me do you have a company policy manual?

Ans:

Policy manuals are generally boring and dry. However, most policy manuals are written to legally protect the company, and you should read and know the policy manual of your firm. It's a red flag if your potential broker does not have a policy manual.

View All Answers

Question - 5:

Do you know how do real estate agents market themselves?

Ans:

Social media is a leading way real estate agents in which market themselves and their properties to potential buyers and sellers. Technology has created new ways for consumers to buy properties and for real estate agents to market those properties and themselves. Finding a real estate agent who is able to help you maneuver through financial and legal paperwork is important in order to decrease the stress and mistakes that may come along with trying to buy or sell property. People turn to their computers and the Internet to research every aspect of a sale, from their potential agent to property values and past sales of homes. While traditional avenues of marketing such as direct mailings, newspaper ads and magazine layouts are still utilized, online marketing avenues are necessary to compete in the real estate market.

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Question - 6:

Do you know what marketing materials are available?



Marketing is the core of what agents do. The marketing materials provided by brokerages vary from firm to firm, but be aware of the guidelines for use of each marketing medium within the firm.

Often the firm will know what words and images are best for promoting your properties and protecting you from litigation.

View All Answers

Question - 7:

Tell me what kinds of real estate transactions use triple net (NNN) leases?

Ans:

A net-net-net lease, also known as a triple net or NNN lease, is a type of real estate lease that requires the tenant to pay, in addition to rent, all of the property's associated costs. The three nets in a triple net lease are real estate taxes, property insurance and maintenance costs. Because the landlord shifts these extra costs to the tenant, the rent he charges for a triple net lease is almost always less than for a comparable lease in which the landlord assumes these costs.

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Question - 8:

Tell us what makes a good private equity deal-maker/fundraiser/researcher/associate?

Ans:

This should be relatively easy. For most positions, it's someone with an eye for opportunities to create value, developing plans to create value, executing said plans, etc. The whole point of a private equity firm is to wring as much value as one can out of an investment. And that should be the focus of your answer.

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Question - 9:

Where do you want to be in five years as Real Estate Developer?

Ans:

If you're young and going after the equivalent of an analyst or associate position, feel free to talk about other opportunities. Perhaps you want to get an MBA if you don't have one already, or even a doctorate. Perhaps you want to build on your experience and join a portfolio company. It's good to have other ideas, but make sure that your position in private equity takes priority. It's perfectly fine to say, "I don't know, but I'm eager to find out what kind of opportunities would present themselves if I get the chance to work here." If you're older and applying for an experienced associate, VP, or managing director position, the firm isn't going to want to hear anything other than a commitment to staying and growing with the firm. They're potentially going to throw a lot of money at you, so reassure them that their return on investment will last a good long while.

View All Answers

Question - 10:

Tell us what do you think is going to happen to LBOs/M&A/private equity in the coming months and years?

Ans:

You need to be up to speed on the state of major deals out there, financing, future growth, fund raising, the whole thing. Don't be surprised if an article in The Wall Street Journal from that very morning is mentioned, and be prepared to respond to it. Naturally, a reasonably bullish outlook for the industry is likely an asset-why else are you applying?-but don't sugarcoat it, either. Talk about the challenges facing the industry in a reasonable way, how the industry might overcome them, and why you ultimately think the industry will continue to grow and prosper.

View All Answers

Question - 11:

Do you know how do real estate agents get listings?

Ans:

Real estate agents get listing agreements in a variety of different ways depending on their markets. A real estate agent in an expensive area of a city such as Manhattan, trying to win the listings of New York's elite, must entertain potential clients with dinners and outings. Other agents might make a name for themselves by adopting online strategies for obtaining listings, building up an invaluable personal network of warm leads, and becoming an expert in a particular area or region. In order to get listings in the top markets such as Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and New York, a real estate agent utilizes a strong network, reputation, the promise of massive marketing to the right people and opulent perks. Real estate agents working on amassing listings in smaller areas that are more affected by economic downturn decrease commissions and utilize the Internet to help attract cash-strapped sellers. Agents also use personal contacts and business networks to create new clients and attract listings.

View All Answers

Question - 12:

Explain Us About Your Professional Network?

Ans:

Real estate is as much about who you know as what you know. Unlike corporate law and public accounting, the technical learning curve for real estate is pretty mild. Particularly on the residential side, stay-at-home parents with limited higher education and work experience have been known to build lucrative real estate careers. The ones able to turn a side career into a strong income tend to share a common trait: They know a lot of people. While commercial real estate tends to require more of a full-time focus, networking matters just as much or more as having specific industry knowledge.

Career changers coming from other fields should use this question as an opportunity to highlight the connections they have made and detail a plan to leverage these connections for real estate leads. If you are a recent graduate, a young professional with limited work experience or you have yet to amass a long list of professional contacts, tell your interviewer how you plan to make connections once you are hired, such as joining networking groups or the chamber of commerce.

View All Answers

Question - 13:

Explain me what structure of business entity formation is typical?



Although most real estate agents operate as sole proprietors, it is not the best approach for lawsuit protection and tax reduction. The best business formation is an LLC to operate your business as an agent; your LLC will contract with the broker.

As a sole proprietor, the income is paid to you individually, and you will receive a 1099 - the worst way to take income. Many options minimize taxes with payments made to an LLC rather than payments made to you as a sole proprietor.

An LLC also protects your personal assets from lawsuits. G. Kent Mangelson, a certified financial planner at the American Society of Asset Protection, said an agent's total asset protection plan must consider three methods of protection: lawsuit protection, strategies for tax reduction and strategies for estate planning.

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Question - 14:

Tell me what do you think this company does right, and what do you think we do wrong?

Ans:

First off, a bit of a trick question here. The company doesn't do anything wrong, it simply has areas in which it can improve. That said, you should be knowledgeable enough about the company and its recent deals to talk intelligently about how the company operates. Play up its strengths, certainly, but don't be sycophantic. And don't pull any punches on ways it can improve, but again, don't be too negative.

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Question - 15:

Suppose company X is a struggling retailer with prime real estate. Do you break it up and sell the land, or try to refresh the business?

Anc.

You can expect at least one hypothetical question regarding your area of expertise during the interview, and probably another that has more focus and better elucidation than the one above. Know enough about the industry to mention a previous deal involving a similar situation and how you might handle things now.

View All Answers

Question - 16:

Explain me what's been the most disappointing thing you've experienced in your career so far?

Ans:

This is a very nice way of asking if you've learned from your mistakes. Nobody's going to get it right all the time, and they're going to want to know how you deal with adversity. Now, if your actions directly resulted in torpedoing a billion-dollar M&A deal ... perhaps you may not want to mention that! But be prepared to talk about a project or deal that didn't go as planned. Don't blame others too much, either. Take responsibility for your part and explain how you've changed your approach since. Send the message that you learned something from the experience.

View All Answers

Question - 17:

Top 10 Real Estate Developer Job Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * If a project has zero NPV and the discount rate is 10%; what will be the IRR?
- * What is the difference between rental yield and cap rate?
- * What are the prevalent area measurement methodologies? Why should you use RICS and not BOMA?
- * In mixed-use development how do you allocate the infra cost / land cost / service charge?
- * In calculating project IRR should we consider financing cash flow?
- * What is the impact of depreciation on the project IRR?
- * What are the best / worst performing asset classes in the current market situation? Why one should invest in these assets or why not?
- * Walk me through how you analyzed last project you worked on. This question may lead to many others. But it also gives you an opportunity to tell your story.
- * How do you calculate the cost of equity?
- * If you have to decide a project's merit on the basis of only one performance indicator, what indicator will you choose?

View All Answers

Question - 18:

Brokerage Business Model Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * Is the brokerage part of a franchise system?
- * If yes, how does being part of a franchise benefit its new professionals?
- * If yes, do I have to pay franchise fees?
- * How does the brokerage market its image and brand?
- * Do the brokerage professionals pay for or contribute towards its marketing?
- * If yes, what are the fees paid by the brokerage's real estate professionals?
- * Does the brokerage practice designated agency or agency according to the common law?

View All Answers

Question - 19:

Brokerage Continuous Learning Opportunities Job Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * What types of continuous learning opportunities does the brokerage offer?
- * What level of professional are continuous learning opportunities geared towards?
- * How often are continuous learning opportunities offered?
- * How is continuous learning delivered? (i.e. e-learning, video, classroom, webinar)

View All Answers



Question - 20:

Brokerage Compensation Packages Job Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * Does the brokerage enter into employment or independent contractor agreements?
- * What compensation packages does the brokerage offer to professionals?
- * What services are included in the brokerage fees or commission splits?
- * Does the brokerage offer benefit programs?
- * If yes, what does the brokerage offer?
- * If yes, who pays the cost?
- * Are there any fees in additional to the fees packages, compensation packages, or commission splits?
- * Does the brokerage provide in-house advances on commissions?
- * If yes what are the terms for in-house advances on commissions?
- * What are the termination terms for the employment or independent contractor agreements?
- * What happens with service agreements for clients recruited by the real estate professional?
- * Does the brokerage have any restrictions regarding employment outside of the brokerage?

View All Answers

Question - 21:

Brokerage Preference of Professionals to Recruit Interview Questions:

Ans:

- * Which type of professional does the brokerage cater to?
- * What percentage of its professionals have been in practice less than 3 years?
- * What percentage of its professionals have been in practice between 3 and 5 years?
- * What percentage of its professionals have been in practice more than 5 years?
- * What is the broker/delegate ratio to its professionals?

View All Answers

Question - 22:

Brokerage Culture and Health Job Interview Questions:

Δns.

- * How long has the brokerage been in business?
- * How many professionals does the brokerage have working for it?
- * How does the brokerage communicate with its professionals (i.e. online, in person)?
- * How many brokerage offices does the broker manage and where are they located?
- * Does the broker/delegates also trade in real estate at the brokerage?
- * Does the brokerage have comprehensive and clear policy and procedures manuals?
- * Does the brokerage hold brokerage meetings?
- * If yes, how often are brokerage meetings held?
- * If yes, what are the usual meeting topics?
- * If yes, is attendance at the meetings mandatory?
- * If yes, where and how are meetings held (i.e. virtual, in person)?
- * How does the brokerage use technology (i.e. websites, online forms, online leads)?
- * What are the brokerage policies on its professional's personally trading in real estate (i.e. buying, selling, leasing properties)?
- * How does the brokerage deal conflicts between its professionals?
- * How does the brokerage deal with conflicts between professionals and clients?

View All Answers

Question - 23:

Professional Real Estate Developer Interview Questions:

Ans

- * Does the brokerage have systems to support its new professionals 24/7/365?
- * Are there any costs associated with brokerage training or support?
- * Who at the brokerage offers training and support to its new professionals?
- * What training and support is offered to new real estate professionals? (i.e. review listing presentation, help draft contracts or conditions)?
- * Does broker/delegate review service agreements and trade documents while the transaction is taking place?
- * Is there a limit to the number of times or hours available for support?
- * Does the brokerage have automated oversight processes to prevent errors?
- * Does the broker/delegate explain incorrect or incomplete documentation?
- * Does the brokerage provide marketing training opportunities?
- * Does the brokerage provide an in-brokerage marketing material designer?
- * Does the brokerage have a mentorship program?
- * If yes, is there a special program to be followed? (details)
- * If yes, who are the mentors?
- * If yes, what is the cost to the professional being mentored?
- * If yes, how are the mentors compensated?
- * If yes, when is the mentorship program completed?
- * If yes, what happens if the professional and the mentor don't get along?

View All Answers

Question - 24:

Brokerages Preferred Area(s) of Practice Interview Questions:



- * In which area(s) of real estate does the brokerage usually practice (i.e. residential, commercial, rural, property management)?
- * What are the brokerage's preferred practice area(s)?
- * Does the brokerage prohibit practice in one or more real estate areas?
- * What expertise does the broker/delegates have in the brokerage's practice area(s)?
- * In what geographic location does the brokerage operate?

View All Answers

Question - 25:

Top Real Estate Developer Job Interview Questions:

- What first sparked your interest in real estate?
- Tell my why you are passionate about working in the real estate industry.
- What skills have you learned in your MSREI program at Johns Hopkins that will help you in the field?
- What is your competitive advantage to the field of real estate?
- What trends do see in local real estate? In real estate globally?
- Why do you believe the real estate industry is relationship centric?
- What does the infrastructure part of your degree entail?
- What types of finance courses have you taken in your program?
- Tell me about your experience with working in teams. What made it positive or negative?
 Tell me about a time that you faced adversity in your workplace. How did you overcome?

- Tell me about a time that you had to negotiate with a colleague, manager, or client. What was the result?
 What do you know about "equity" and "debt?"
 Explain the relationship between "IRR", "NPV" and the "discount rate." (The right answer is "When IRR is equal to the discount rate, NPV is zero.")
- Talk to me about the relationship and differences of Property Management and Asset Management.
- How do you use a Cap Rate?
- Tell me what you know about "Real Estate Cycles".
- Tell me about a construction or development project where you have played a significant role. what was the result?
- How would you describe your style of leadership? How is this influential to the real estate industry?
- How are you involved in the community? How would your involvement add value to this company?
- · How do you maintain balance and order under pressure?
- You are told by a supervisor to misrepresent information about a deal you are working on. What do you do? How do you respond?
- What professional real estate associations are you active in and how do you contribute?
- What areas or trends do you see most influencing the future of the real estate industry?

View All Answers

Question - 26:

Brokerage Services to Its Real Estate Professionals Interview Questions:

- * What technologies does the brokerage offer and what is the cost to use them?
- * What is the timeframe in which for commissions are paid to professionals?
- * Does the brokerage pay commissions by cheque or direct deposit?
- * What signs are available and what is their cost (i.e. for sale signs, open house signs, sign installation)?
- * Does the brokerage provide real estate forms? If so, what is their cost?
- * Does the brokerage provide materials for listing presentations and property listings?
- * Does the brokerage provide materials for working with buyers?
- * Does the brokerage provide access to client meeting rooms?
- * Is the brokerage part of a real estate referral network
- * If yes, how are network referrals disseminated at the brokerage?
- * If yes, do new real estate professionals receive network referrals?
- * If yes, is there a cost to receiving a referral from the brokerage?
- * Does the brokerage work with relocation companies?
- If yes, how are relocation referrals disseminated at the brokerage?
- If yes, do new real estate professionals receive relocation referrals?
- If yes, is there a cost to receiving a relocation referral from the brokerage?
- * Does the brokerage have an on-duty system to handle general inquiries (i.e. walk-ins, call-ins, online inquiries)?
- * If yes, what is the likelihood of new professionals getting clients this way?

 * What marketing materials are available for professionals (i.e. pre-designed brochures, folders, moving tip sheets)?
- * If so, is there a cost for brokerage provided marketing materials?

View All Answers

Question - 27:

Sample Real Estate Developer Job Interview Questions:

- * What is your plan to attract new clients to this office?
- * Have you ever refused to work with a buyer?
- * Who was the most demanding client you have worked with? Were you able to meet his/hers needs?
- * What was the last CE course you completed?
- * This agency will not provide any money toward your advertising costs. What are your advertising budget and plan?
- * What's your CRM style for maintaining strong relationships with your past and current clients?
- * Has a broker ever asked you to remove your license from their office?
- * How would you attract millennial buyers to this agency?
- * Describe your experience with using the MLS.
- * Do you have experience getting clients through social media?
- * Describe your network in the community. What is your plan to make it even stronger?
- Have you ever worked with another agent (for the buyer or seller) on a deal and been asked to do something you knew to be unethical? How did you handle it?
- * Describe your ideal office environment. Do you need a lot of support and resources from a broker?



- * How many homes did you sell last year?
- * Why did you choose a career in real estate?
- * What is your experience working with first-time home buyers? What are some of the biggest challenges involved?
- * If you don't make a sale for 6 months, do you have a plan in place to get by until then?
- * Are you familiar with client management software programs?
- * How many listings did you bring in last year?
- * What steps have you taken to increase your personal brand awareness?
- * What would your last broker say about you?
- * For the sales you made last year, what was the average number of days between getting the listing and an accepted offer?

View All Answers

Question - 28:

Tell me what are you most proud of in your career to date?

Ans:

This is another opportunity to talk about things you've done to help create value. It can be an investment you identified or a trend you spotted, or any of the things mentioned above. But make it a good one, and make it relevant to the private equity firm's goals.

View All Answers

Question - 29:

Tell me what Is the Biggest Deal You Have Conducted?

Ans:

The scope of the deal is the biggest differentiator between residential and commercial real estate. A \$1 million transaction is considered a whale for a residential agent. Commercial real estate agents, by contrast, regularly broker transactions in the tens of millions. Presiding over deals this large requires almost a preternatural level of confidence and calm under pressure. Anyone can claim to possess these traits, but a proven track record of closing big deals provides proof you have what it takes to get it done.

Experienced agents should have no problem with this question. If you are newly trying to break into the business, you can still create a positive impression with your answer. Rather than evading the question, acknowledge that you are new to the field and have yet to close a big real estate deal. Next, highlight a big transaction you closed at a previous sales job or a major project you oversaw to completion that required a cool head under pressure.

View All Answers

Question - 30:

Tell me what are the commission splits?

Ans:

This is your business, and you need to know how much cash you will make on a sale. After all, you only eat what you kill in this business; there are no paychecks and no free rides.

Commission splits need to be reasonable and within an industry standard. Know what commission splits other brokers offer as well.

View All Answers

Question - 31:

Explain me what costs will I incur?

Ans:

Building a new business is difficult. Understanding what costs are involved when working under a broker is essential to the viability of your business.

One of the most important elements of the cost structure is the errors and omissions insurance; you want to purchase the proper insurance to protect your assets while maximizing your capital output.

Understand the coverage provided by the brokerage and what further steps are needed to keep your business protected and safe.

View All Answers

Question - 32:

Suppose if you were given a chance to go after Company Y, would you take it, and what would you do with it?

Ans:

Another hypothetical, with "company Y" likely a company in the news lately for various and sundry problems. If it's a company with too much debt and not enough upside, feel free to say you wouldn't take it. If it's a company with a decent balance sheet and some operational problems, then talk about what you'd do. Ultimately, you'd have to be up on the news to consider whether there's an opportunity to create value within the framework of an acquisition.

View All Answers

Question - 33:

Tell me is the market for mega-cap M&A/LBO deals done?

Ans:

Another question having to do with your knowledge of current events. There was a point when the industry seemed to be poised for that \$100 billion LBO deal. That may no longer be the case, at least over the next few years. Do your homework, read up on everything you can, and talk to contacts in the industry. Get a feel for the trends within private equity, and be able to talk intelligently about them.

View All Answers

Question - 34:

Explain me what you did in your last position that helped your company find value?



This goes to the very core of what it means to work for a private equity firm. You should be able to walk into an interview with four to five solid examples of how your actions directly saved your previous employers money. This could be from developing operational efficiencies to ferreting out information that helped save money on a M&A deal. Maybe your research helped a company develop a new product line, or your ideas spurred cost savings on benefits. Whatever it is, be prepared to talk frankly and in detail about how you are an agent of value creation.

View All Answers

Question - 35:

Explain me what are the differences between investing in real estate and stocks?

Ans:

If you invest in real estate, you are actually purchasing a tangible, physical land or property. Investing in stocks is entirely different; if you purchase shares of a business, you are buying a claim to a piece of the company itself.

The risks associated with each investment type differ. When you own real estate, you incur maintenance costs, capital costs, taxes and maybe development costs each month. That said, the values of physical assets are less likely to become worthless than stocks.

View All Answers

Question - 36:

Tell me do you provide an independent contractor agreement?

Ans:

Independent contractor agreements are crucial. Make sure it's in writing, and read the entire agreement before signing it. If necessary, seek legal counsel to ensure your bargaining power is nearly equal in strength and your interests are protected.

There's a lot to consider when looking for a brokerage. These questions will help you find the brokerage that best fits your needs.

View All Answers

Question - 37:

Tell me what forms of training and continuing education do you provide?

Ans:

Real estate agents, both seasoned and new, need consistent training and continuing education to stay up to date with the current laws and best practices in the industry.

Mentorship programs coupled with an extensive new agent training series is the best way to provide a well-rounded education.

Mentors can teach new agents real-world scenarios including the do's and don'ts of the industry. The legal minefield is ever-changing, and agents need to understand the best practices, including training, to keep mistakes minimal and litigation at bay.

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