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Conducting a psychological assessment interview is an integral part of the hiring process, especially for positions that require emotional intelligence and mental stability. These interviews aim to evaluate a candidates psychological traits, such as their problem-solving skills, decision-making abilities, and interpersonal relationships. By asking the right psychological assessment interview questions, employers can gain insight into a candidates mindset and determine their suitability for the role. Whether you are an employer or a candidate preparing for a psychological assessment interview, its crucial to familiarize yourself with common questions that may be asked. This article presents a comprehensive list of psychological assessment interview questions that can help you prepare effectively and showcase your abilities in the best possible light. Before we dive into the list of questions, its important to note that every interview is unique, and the questions asked may vary depending on the job requirements and the organizations culture. Nevertheless, these questions cover a wide range of psychological aspects and are commonly used in such interviews. See these psychological assessment interview questionsHow do you handle stressful situations?What strategies do you use to cope with pressure?Describe a time when you faced a difficult decision. How did you arrive at your final choice?How do you handle criticism?What steps do you take to maintain work-life balance?Can you tell me about a time when you had to work with someone you didnt get along with? How did you handle the situation?How would you describe your problem-solving skills?How do you prioritize your tasks and manage your time effectively?Describe a situation when you had to deal with a difficult customer or client. How did you handle it?What motivates you to succeed?How do you handle failure?Describe a time when you had to work under tight deadlines. How did you manage your time and ensure quality work?How do you handle ambiguity and uncertainty in your work?Can you give an example of a time when you had to adapt to a major change at work?How do you manage conflicts within a team?Tell me about a time when you had to take charge of a project or team. How did you ensure everyones cooperation and success?What steps do you take to build rapport with colleagues?How do you handle feedback?Describe a time when you had to deal with a difficult or angry customer. How did you resolve the situation?Can you give an example of a situation where you had to work collaboratively with a diverse group of people?What steps do you take to stay updated with the latest industry trends and developments?How do you handle ethical dilemmas at work?Describe a time when you had to handle a challenging project. How did you approach it?What steps do you take to build trust with your team members?How do you handle setbacks?Tell me about a time when you had to deliver constructive criticism to a colleague. How did you approach the situation?Can you give an example of a time when you had to influence a decision that went against your initial recommendation?What steps do you take to ensure effective communication within a team?How do you handle disagreements within a team?Describe a situation when you had to deal with a difficult coworker. How did you handle it?What steps do you take to manage your emotions in the workplace?How do you handle tight deadlines and multiple priorities?Can you give an example of a time when you had to resolve a conflict between two team members?What steps do you take to maintain a positive work environment?Describe a time when you had to make an unpopular decision. How did you handle the backlash?How do you handle criticism from your superiors?What steps do you take to ensure effective collaboration with remote team members?How do you stay calm and composed under pressure?Describe a situation when you had to handle a difficult client or customer. How did you manage to satisfy their needs?What steps do you take to resolve conflicts between team members?How do you handle competing priorities?Tell me about a time when you had to work with a challenging team member. How did you handle the situation?Can you give an example of a time when you had to deal with a major setback? How did you recover from it?What steps do you take to ensure effective communication with clients or customers?How do you handle unresponsive or difficult stakeholders?Remember, the key to a successful psychological assessment interview lies not only in your answers but also in your ability to demonstrate self-awareness, emotional intelligence, and adaptability. Use these questions as a starting point to prepare for your interview, and tailor your responses to showcase your unique strengths and experiences. Interviewing25 Psychology Interview Questions (With Answer Examples)Written by Updated January 28, 2025Interview questions allow employers to gauge the sense of humor, specific strengths, personality and ability of psychology candidates to determine if they may fit into the company's working environment. To answer questions appropriately, psychologists preparing for work interviews can benefit from having an idea of what types of questions to expect so that they may form answers ahead of time.In this article, well discuss common interview questions in psychology and explain how to respond with answer examples.When you are preparing for a psychology interview, you have to be ready for each and every question. Here are some of the questions you are likely to encounter and how to answer them with examples. This question requires you to tell interviewers about yourself. The answers you give should be concise and precise but have to cover critical details such as accomplishments and what makes you more qualified than the rest of the job applicants. Research to understand the qualifications needed to confirm that you possess the qualities and offer more than the requirements. Example: "Proven abilities in office efficiency, excellent communication skills, passion and problem-solving skills are essential reasons you should hire me. In my previous jobs, my colleagues and bosses criticized me for my passion for work and the empathy I show to my clients. I am excited to work with this organization to help more clients."Read more: All About Psychology Jobs and Common CareersIf you have other offers or have applied for psychology jobs in other facilities, tell the interviewer the truth. The interviewer could decide to research you by calling other facilities and finding out that you have applied for a job there. Example: "I have received one job offer from a hospital within this area and still waiting on word from two facilities where I applied. I have applied for this position because it is educational psychology which is my area of expertise and I have worked in educational institutions for the past 12 years, where I enjoyed the job." This question should be an opportunity for you to show your passion and enthusiasm for psychology. Narrate stories that demonstrate your love for psychology. Example: "At age ten, my mother was diagnosed with bipolar disorder. She faced depression and struggled to look after me. I decided to work in health facilities to help other families going through the same problems I encountered."Related: List of Weaknesses: Examples of What To Say in an InterviewTo ensure you understand what the facilities do, an interviewer can ask this question. This question will require you to research the company. Example: "In my search for a new job, I realized that I want to work in a facility committed to helping patients with psychological conditions and a firm that understands the importance of integrity. Your facility focuses on helping families and tops in the list of companies fighting for its national integrity, which is what I am looking for in my next job."An excellent way to answer this question is by showing that you understand various communication methods are better in different situations. Describe a communication mode that's fast, efficient and can allow in-depth communication. The answer you give can also be affected by the facility's location where you are applying for a job. Example: "Working with patients living in remote areas has made me realize that I can easily reach them through calls and not communication methods needing internet connections."Related: Communication Mediums: 5 Types (Plus Choosing the Right One)Take this opportunity to inquire from the interviewers about their goals and the things they want to accomplish. Inform the interviewer you can tackle any project. Example: "In my previous job, I had helped many patients with psychological problems and ensured that when the facilities completed its work as targeted." This question can be easy after conducting thorough research to understand the pay scale of the facility. Also, research the pay range in psychology fields. Inform the interviewers that you are flexible and willing to negotiate pay. Example: "My salary requirements match my qualifications, and I know we can come to an agreement about pay."Related: Top 10 Psychology Jobs by Average IncomeBefore your interview, identify your psychology strength and craft solid examples that few applicants will create. Example: "I am a social person and have significant social circles, which I maintain by finding ways to stay connected, like communicating via social media platforms. I socialize with people of all kinds, which is a strength when dealing with people with mental health challenges."Related: How to Emphasize Your Personal Strengths During an InterviewInterviewers may use this question to understand what you consider as your most valuable accomplishment. Describe what you achieved in your previous job or school project, your role and why you consider it worthwhile. Example: "Last month, my facility won an award for social justice concern in feminist psychology. My roles were organizing the team, ensuring feminist psychology became a priority. We helped women with psychological challenges win their families back and overcome social injustices." This question provides valuable information to employers to help them understand where your previous employer failed. They also use this question to determine if you were fired from your previous jobs for failing or misconduct. Refrain from giving negative details, but ensure you answer the question honestly. Example: "Although I appreciate my previous employers, I found the opportunities for growth didnt align with my professional objectives. This job opportunity aligns with my career ambitions."Related: How To Answer Why You Left Your Last Job (With Examples)In psychology jobs, stress is a prominent component therapists cannot ignore. Employers use this question to know how you maintain the institution's excellent culture even when working under pressure. Example: "Communication has been an excellent tool for me to relieve stress. I talk to my colleagues while protecting clients' confidentiality. When I cannot handle the pressure, I seek help from my therapists, who helps me a lot."Take this question seriously by describing your ambitions. Ensure the future you tell has this company in it even when you are unsure of spending the next eight years there. Example: "I hope to gain more experience and help to mentor other therapists in this facility."Related: Interview Question: "What Are Your Long-Term Goals?" This question is to evaluate your experience and if you are a good fit for the job. Mention the challenges and the way you handled them. Example: "The role of a therapist requires patience. When I began working in my previous job, I had experienced professional isolation and compassion fatigue. With time I made friends and showing empathy to patients is no longer a problem."Employers want to know your schedules and how you spend time when you have no appointments. Explain what you do on regular workdays. Example: "As a therapist, I spend my day counseling clients and dealing with issues like depression, family disturbances and substance abuse. When I do not have appointments, I take the free time to reach my clients and inquire about how they are faring."Related: A Day in the Life of a Psychologist: Job Duties and SkillsExplain the challenges you experienced, your skills and what you learned from your previous job. Example: "As a therapist, I have experienced challenging cases, but I had to meet the requirements of my clients to ensure I helped them. My work experience has helped me connect with various people's lives, which I intend to do here." This question requires you to explain how you deal with clients and how you take their issues. Example: "I dealt with patients with mental health issues and handled them with a positive mindset even when treating complex conditions." This question helps interviewers to understand what you require to continue working even after facing challenges. Mention the things that keep you motivated and assertive at work. Example: "As a therapist, I encounter many challenges. However, the challenges I face motivate me as I want to solve every problem despite how complex it looks."Related: 8 Types of Motivation To Help You Achieve Your GoalsAn interviewer may ask you this question to see if you are suited for the role. Use your experience and reflect on your course to answer this question. Example: "Although psychologists stick to one model, I am familiar with cognitive, biological practices, psychodynamic and behavioral models."Related: A List of 22 Different Types of Psychology Interviewers use this question to match your experience with what their facility is encountering most. The answer you give should be about the disorders or conditions the facility faces the most. Example: "I have handled many disorders, but the psychological case I have encountered most is bipolar disorder. Most of the clients I have served are from families with bipolar history."An employer uses this question to learn how you play your role. Example: "I have handled different counseling sessions, such as children or adult therapy. I feel comfortable working with any group of clients."Related: 8 Types of Counselors To KnowThis question is to assess if you possess conflict management and problem-solving skills. Explain an approach you take when resolving conflict. Example: "I would begin by listening to both conflicting parties before looking at the facts to determine the cause of conflict. With a solution, I would explain how I would have dealt with the case if it was my problem. If one party is wrong, I would show them where they are wrong." This question is asked to determine how you can deal with patients. You have to prove you can comfortably handle any patient. Example: "Patients with mental health conditions can sometimes act out of character. I monitor patients to note their behaviors and work with doctors to administer that when necessary."Related: Interview Question: "Tell Me How You Handled a Difficult Situation" This question is to assess if you are compassionate. Explain how you support clients by demonstrating compassion to them. Example: "I encountered a client who had lost his job and was suffering from depression and his family had no food. I comforted the patients and informed him that many people are undergoing the same problems, after which I directed him to a hiring company."Employers who ask this question want to see your ability to deal with such situations. Example: "I would inquire about the reason the patient does not want to take medications. In case of adverse effects, I would inform his doctor to address the issue and if it is without reason, I would explain the dangers of failing to get the treatment."Related: 16 Areas of Specialization in Psychology: How To Choose OneEmployers gauging the understanding of applicants in the psychology profession can use this question. The answer you give has to differentiate and define the relation of the two. Example: "Therapists do not prescribe medication since they are not qualified as medical doctors. After a therapist identifies a condition, a psychiatrist handles the medical treatment part."Read more: Psychologist vs. Therapist: How The Professions Differ The information on this site is provided as a courtesy and for informational purposes only. Indeed is not a career or legal advisor and does not guarantee job interviews or offers Share:Related Articles100%(1)100% found this document useful (1 vote)520 viewsThis document contains an intake form for a new client of a licensed psychologist. The form collects information over 10 sections: [1] presenting issues and reasons for seeking treatment; [2SaveSave Intake Interview Questions For Later100%100% found this document useful, undefined Share copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may not use the material in a way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. Share:Like If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Intake interviews are the most common type of interview in clinical psychology. They occur when a client first comes to seek help from a clinician. The intake interview is important in clinical psychology because it is the first interaction that occurs between the client and the clinician. The clinician may explain to the client what to expect during the interview, including the time duration. The purpose of the intake interview often includes establishing and diagnosing any problems the client may have.[1] Usually, the clinician diagnoses the patient using criteria from the first two DSM axes. Some intake interviews include a mental status examination[2] During the intake interview, the clinician may determine a treatment plan. In some cases, particular clinician may feel that he or she lacks the expertise to best help the client. It is during the intake interview that the clinician should refer the client to another source.[3]During the intake interview, both parties form opinions about one another that can be either positive or negative. The client begins to perceive the characteristics of the therapist during this intake interview and the clinical relationship between the two starts to form here.[4] A client's perception of a clinician during an intake interview can either hinder or encourage them to get further treatment. The more clients perceive positive qualities in their therapists, the more likely they are to attend sessions in the future [5] This decision whether or not to continue treatment is usually made after the intake interview takes place. Studies have found that almost all patients make a decision about whether to return or not after the intake interview.[6] Approximately fifty percent of psychotherapy patients drop out of treatment and most of these patients do so after they have an intake interview.[7] Therefore, it is important that during intake interviews that the clinician expresses to his or her clients that they have a correct understanding of the client and his or her needs and emotions. This helps the client feel secure, and thus makes it more likely that the client will continue to seek treatment.[8]Most clinicians conduct their own intake interviews. However, bigger organizations with a larger staff pools may have social workers or other employees who conduct these interviews.[9] Interviewers have varying approaches when it comes to conducting intake interviews with clients. The way that the clinician conducts the intake interview sets the tone for the continued course of treatment. Communication style is important during these interviews. Some patients prefer to be asked specific questions by the interviewer, whereas some patients prefer to open-endedly talk about their feelings. In many cases, the interviewer can get a sense of the patients preference.[10] It is important that the client build rapport during the interview. It is often beneficial to both the client and the patient to have a balance in which the clinician asks questions and the patient also volunteers certain information. This allows the interview to have somewhat of a conversational flow and become more personal.^ Kramer, Geoffrey P., Douglas A. Bernstein, and Vicky Phares. Introduction to Clinical Psychology. 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009. 117-118.^ Kramer, Geoffrey P., Douglas A. Bernstein, and Vicky Phares. Introduction to Clinical Psychology. 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009. 117-118.^ Hilsenroth MJ & Cromer TD (2007). Clinical interventions related to alliance during the initial interview and psychological assessment. Psychotherapy: Theory, Research, Practice, Training, 44, 205-218.^ Kokotovic AM & Tracey TT (1987). Premature termination at a university counseling center. Journal of Counseling Psychology, 34, 80-82.^ Alcaraz Olm, R. J., Diefenbacher, J. L., Guzm, L., Sharma, B., & de la Chausse Acua, M. (2010). The impact of perceived therapist characteristics on patients decision to return or not return for more sessions. International Journal of Psychology & Psychological Therapy^ Wierzbicki M & Pekarik G (1993). A meta-analysis of psychotherapy dropout. Professional Psychology: Research and Practice, 24, 190-195.^ Kramer, Geoffrey P., Douglas A. Bernstein, and Vicky Phares. Introduction to Clinical Psychology. 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009. 117-118.^ Kramer, Geoffrey P., Douglas A. Bernstein, and Vicky Phares. Introduction to Clinical Psychology. 7th edition. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2009. 117-118.^ Gargouth, Sarah, Oddo, Vanessa, Gao, Shan, Alegra, Margarita. (2009). Communication: Observational Study: Patient initiation of information: Exploring its role during the mental health intake visit. Patient Education And Counseling, 75220-226.Retrieved from " guide provides a comprehensive framework for conducting psychological intake interviews focused on understanding clients' concerns, coping attempts, and family background. It includes a series of structured questions designed to gauge problem intensity, duration, effects on the individual, and the influence of family dynamics on the individuals psychological well-being. By exploring personal history and relationships, the guide aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the client's life context, ultimately assisting mental health professionals in delivering tailored care.Intake interviews are the most common type of interview in clinical psychology. They occur when a client first comes to seek help from a clinician. The intake interview is important in clinical psychology because it is the first interaction that occurs between the client and the clinician. 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Patient Education And Counseling, 75220-226.Retrieved from " Your first session with a new client is often a chance to build a rapport and establish an understanding of their key concerns. Questions for therapists to ask during an intake session can set the groundwork for gathering crucial information about the client and guiding the therapeutic process. It might take some time before a diagnosis can be made, as you may want to interpret information in future sessions to develop a plan for an appropriate course of treatment. In addition to asking questions from the client, it can be helpful to allow clients to feel free to ask questions and get information about their potential therapist prior to their first therapy session. This process may include the approaches or interventions used by the therapist, their education and training, and their experience addressing particular issues. This initial intake session also offers an opportunity for the therapist to share relevant resources with the client, such as links to science-backed articles on certain techniques or approaches. In the intake session, a therapist may employ open-ended questions to garner the clients psychological needs, physical health, and other factors affecting their mental health. Open-ended questions allow the client to express themselves authentically and can help the therapist gain insight into their concerns. Some yes-or-no questions may also be asked when there are only one or two response options available, like with questions about the use of medication. However, closed questions may be less conducive to openness and might appear judgmental.A therapist may also ask scaling questions, requiring the client to list their concern on a severity scale from one to 10. Some counselors choose to do an intake interview during the assessment part of the intake process. This interview enables the therapist to gather essential information about the client, such as social and family history, the reasons they seek therapy, current and past challenges in functioning, and other factors. The purpose of this interview is often twofold: It can inform the diagnosis and treatment plan for the individual client or family members and offers a chance to create rapport between the therapist and client. A therapist may send the intake form or questionnaire to the client beforehand, giving them time to reflect on the answers. Clients may also submit answers before their initial session.In some cases, questions may be asked on the phone or through an initial video-conferencing consultation. These questions may include: Have you ever seen a therapist? What have you found helpful or harmful in past counseling sessions? What brings you to therapy at this moment in time? Questions may also be elaborated on during the interview. Reminding the client that this session will be unlike a regular therapy session may help put them at ease. While most therapists may word and ask questions to fit their approach and style, common therapy questions may include the following: Below are questions that gauge the clients mood, symptoms, present concerns, and coping strategies: How have you been feeling lately? How often do you feel this way? What are your most distressing symptoms? How would you describe your mood? How do you feel about your current situation? How do you usually cope with stressful situations? What have you tried to cope with this situation or problem? Below are questions that gauge a clients relationship with work, relationships, family, and social support: What is your professional life? How do you feel about work? Whats your relationship with your family like? How connected are you with the people in your life? Tell me more about the meaningful relationships in your life. Lets discuss one of your responses on the intake form. In some cases, the standardized form of intake interviews can seem formal or daunting to clients. Being mindful of the clients agenda and comfort level may help a therapist balance their needs with the clients. The American Counseling Association's magazine Vista examines situations where there might be a need to balance the needs of the client and the desire to have a completed intake form. They suggest that therapists consider the following: Indicators during an intake session that suggest the benefit of shifting away from the structured intake form Observing non-verbal behaviors and the completion of the intake form Acknowledging that showing up to the session may be an achievement in itself Having a list of less conventional questions may be beneficial in creating trust, disarming the client, and building a genuine therapeutic relationship.Below are a few you might try at the first session: What are your passions? What makes you feel excited? What does a good day look like to you? How do you get through a challenging day? Do you practice self-care? The exact wording in questions may be adapted to fit your approach and the client. Different questions may be asked depending on the therapist and their specialization and approach. For example, marriage and family therapists may orient questions that gauge the results from both treatments showed me how important it is to be a part of a team of therapists with different strengths."Related:Should I Be a Psychologist? What To Expect in a Psychology CareerIt's common to face specific challenges in your psychology career, and a hiring manager may ask you about yours to learn about your approach to overcoming obstacles. The way you answer this question can tell the interviewer if you prioritize problem-solving when you face a challenge and how you work toward improving in that area. In your answer, be honest but end positively by explaining how you've improved or what you have learned.Example: "My biggest challenge as a mental health counselor is balancing my work schedule with my personal life. I often counsel business professionals who ask for tips on finding work-life balance, and I find I put forth extra effort to follow the same advice I give them.One way I've addressed this challenge is by offering virtual sessions for my clients. They enjoy the convenience, and I enjoy the ability to help them from my home office and return immediately to spending time with my family."Related:Which Psychology Field Is Right For Me? (Tips and Examples)Hiring managers often want to know what candidates consider the most important skills for a person who works in psychology. Their answer tells the hiring manager whether the values support the mission and values of the organization and may help them succeed in the role. Consider providing the most important soft skill and hard skill you use in your career and why they're essential to performing effectively in the workplace.Example: "As a psychology researcher, the most important skills for a person in my role are critical thinking and research methods. Although I prefer using certain methods for conducting research, understanding different approaches allows me to consider all of my options and choose the most effective option each time. Critical thinking is also essential in this role because regardless of the research method you use, as using logical analysis and problem-solving skills enables you to apply your research in practical ways."Related: Critical Skills for a Career in Clinical PsychologyDifferent roles in psychology may require you to use specialized tools, instruments or methods for performing your duties. A hiring manager might ask you about those that pertain to the position to determine if you have experience with them.If you have a background working in the type of job you're applying for, you can list two or three techniques you use most often and why you prefer them. If you're new to the field, you can talk about what you plan to use based on your coursework or an internship.Example: "I recently completed an internship as a behavioral health therapist, and I believe two of the assessments I learned to use during that experience may be especially helpful in this position. Working with adults to identify and address types of neurodivergence often requires using assessments that apply specifically to adults instead of children. Two assessments I used regularly are the Adult ADHD Self-Report Scale and the Autism Spectrum Quotient, as they helped me develop effective treatment plans for clients."Related:A Guide to 10 Research Methods in Psychology (With Tips)Psychology is an evolving field that continues to change as new research and technologies become available. Staying informed about these changes is important because it can help you adapt and work efficiently.Hiring managers might ask about how you stay updated on trends and news in psychology to determine whether you're versatile and open to changes. Consider where you look for information about the industry and share two or three resources you find useful.Example: "I work at a university, so I find it helpful to consult with others who work in the psychology department about important trends and breakthroughs. Many researchers have detailed insight into what we can expect for ourselves and our clients based on their work and the work of their colleagues. I also have memberships in professional organizations within the field, and they offer helpful resources like webinars, publications and conferences that highlight trends and technologies in psychology."Related:Q&A: What Is a Professional Organization?Besides asking about aspects of your regular role you find challenging, a hiring manager might also want to know about a specific time you confronted and overcame a challenge. Your answer shows them how you work under pressure and the approaches you take to resolve to problems while ensuring the well-being of your clients. In your response, try to give an example of a challenging case you managed that had a positive result.Example: "I once had a client who seemed hesitant to share information with me, so I approached the situation gently to try to gain their trust. After several sessions, I mentioned they seemed uncomfortable and asked how I could help. They told me they realized when we met that I also counseled one of their family members, so they didn't feel comfortable sharing personal details with me. I assured them we could find them one different therapist who didn't have the same personal connections, and they were relieved that I was willing to help them find the right fit." The information on this site is provided as a courtesy and for informational purposes only. Indeed is not a career or legal advisor and does not guarantee job interviews or offers Share:Related Articles Loading...

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