

A few simple questions and phrases to get started:

Good morning/afternoon.

Pleased/Nice to meet you.

How are you, today?

Tell me a little bit about yourself.

Could you please describe yourself?

Tell me a little bit about your family.

What do you like to do in your free/spare time?

INTERVIEW FOR ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Below are examples of the types of questions you may find in an interview for admission to an international program at university level. Each question is followed by a sample answer, together with space for you to write your own answer to the question.

1. Could you please describe yourself?

My name is Tasikan; my friends call me Lek. I'm 18 years old. I graduated from Triam Udom Suksa School in March. I was born in Khon Kaen but moved to Bangkok with my family 10 years ago. I live with my mother, my father, my two brothers and my sister in Klongsan. I want to study in the BBA program at Chulalongkorn University because I think the knowledge and experience I'll get from here will help me in my future career.

Your Answer:

2. What do you like to do in your spare time?

I love reading books because I love to learn about new things. I also love to explore cyberspace. I think the internet makes the world a lot smaller and more convenient.

Your Answer:

3. Where did you go to school?

From grades 1 to 8, I went to SC School. From grades 9 to 12, I went to Triam.

Your Answer:

4. What was it like being a student at your high school?

Being a student at Triam can be a blessing, but it can also be stressful. I was glad to be studying with intelligent, hard-working classmates, but this also meant that I had to study very hard and improve myself all the time to keep up with them.

Your Answer:

5. Did you enjoy being a student at your high school?

Yes. I enjoyed the subjects I studied, and I liked being amongst intelligent people. It was a challenge, but I believe it brought out the best in me.

Your Answer:

6. Where is your house located?

My house is in Charoen Nakhon Road in Klongsan District, near Baankak junction.

Your Answer:

7. How did you get to school?

I used to go to school by ferry and by bus.

Your Answer:

8. What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is maths because I can use my wits to solve problems. It also teaches me to think systematically.

Your Answer:

9. What is your least favourite subject?

My least favourite subject at school was the French language because there are so many grammar rules and so many different verb tenses to learn.

Your Answer:

10. What kind of books do you like to read?

I love to read “Harry Potter” books because they are so imaginative and full of fun. Besides, they are all about friendship.

Your Answer:

11. Tell me about your non-academic activities and what they have done for you.

I was the leader of a sports team, a school musician, a member of the school board, and a school host. All these activities taught me how to work with others in a team and gave me the chance to make new friends. I learnt how to co-operate with others.

Your Answer:

12. Who will support you financially at university?

My mother and my father will pay all my fees and support me.

Your Answer:

13. Have you ever worked part-time?

Yes, I have. I worked at Chester Grill on weekends for six months until last December. Now I work at KFC on weekends. I also help my mother and father with the family business.

Your Answer:

14. When you were younger, what did you dream of doing?

I used to dream of being an architect so that one day I would build my own house. That would be exciting.

Your Answer:

15. Have any of your dreams come true?

Yes, when I was accepted into Triam School. That was also my family's dream.

Your Answer:

16. What are your dreams that have not been fulfilled yet?

I dream of having my own clothing business one day.

Your Answer:

17. How would you describe your personality?

I'm friendly. I love to make friends and meet new people. I'm also curious, and I love to learn about new things.

Your Answer:

18. What are your strong points?

I'm very determined. When I have a dream, I try my best to make it come true. If I can't make it happen, I don't lose heart because at least I've learnt something from the experience.

Your Answer:

19. What are your weak points?

Sometimes I'm too sensitive. I often feel sad when I see someone or something suffering.

Your Answer:

20. What has been your most valuable experience in life?

I think my most valuable experience is seeing how hard my mother and father have worked just so that I can have all the opportunities that they did not have when they were young. I am determined that I will work hard to make them proud of me and to thank them for all they have given me.

Your Answer:

21. Why have you chosen business administration?

I want a career in business. I want to follow in my parents' footsteps and have my own business one day. I believe the business administration program will give me a sound foundation for my future career.

Your Answer:

22. What does business administration mean to you?

Business administration will give me the knowledge and skills I will need to manage people and business successfully.

Your Answer:

23. What makes you think you would enjoy being part of this faculty?

I really want to succeed in my own business. Studying in this faculty will help me to achieve my dreams. Learning what I like will be an enjoyable experience.

Your Answer:

24. Studying in this faculty can be a challenging and difficult experience. What makes you think you would be able to handle it?

I'm a hard worker and a very determined person. I enjoy challenges, and I don't give up easily.

Your Answer:

25. Why have you chosen Chulalongkorn University?

Chula is considered the best university in Thailand; I'd be very honoured to be part of it. I want to study with the best.

Your Answer:

26. What are your expectations from the BBA program at Chula?

I expect the program will equip me with the knowledge and skills that I need to achieve my business ambitions. I know it will be challenging, but I am looking forward to the challenge.

Your Answer:

27. We have lots of applicants; why should we choose you?

I'm truly interested in business administration because I think it is essential to my future. I know the importance of this program to my future, and I have the motivation to succeed. I have a strong sense of management. While I am determined, I am also a reasonable person. I believe these are qualities of a good manager.

Your Answer:

28. If you couldn't be accepted into the BBA program, what would your alternative be?

I'll still study a business administration program because I'm really interested in this field. I'll have to look for a suitable program somewhere else.

Your Answer:

29. Have you applied for entry to any other programs?

Yes, I have, because I have to keep my options open. My minor interest is economics. However, I would much prefer to study business administration

Your Answer:

30. Why did you choose to study in the English program?

English is becoming more and more important in business in this age of globalization. To be successful in business today, you need to be able to communicate effectively in English.

Your Answer:

31. What is your opinion about Thailand's current economic situation?

I think the country's economy has gone through a difficult time. There are still a lot of debt problems to be dealt with before the economy will completely recover, but steps are being taken to deal with them. Things will improve if we work together.

Your Answer:

32. If you were to own an international company in the future, what kind of business would it be?

I would like to own a clothing business one day. Clothing is one of the essentials in life; everyone needs to wear clothes. Nowadays, people are very interested in fashion, and Thailand has a lot to offer in this area. I believe this business has a bright future.

Your Answer:

33. It is said that people in the business administration field tend to be materialistic. Do you agree?

I think people in business administration are realistic rather than materialistic. They might be very interested in money, but money is what you need in real life. BA people understand what it takes to be successful in business and life.

Your Answer:

34. What do you plan to do after graduation?

I'll help my mother and father run their business and work towards having my own clothing company one day.

Your Answer:

How to use this worksheet

First, use your imagination!

If you want some ideas here's how I've used it with fantastic results.

I was working with two 2 graduates in Thailand who were preparing for a University entrance interview.

They had 21 hrs of instruction over a 3 day period; their English level was 'pre intermediate'.

I first went through the basics of ask and answer, using the questions in the worksheet. While doing this, I made suggestions and did a little rote work on their grammar.

Next, I asked them to write their responses, following that I asked them the questions again while they read their written responses. The second student would listen and record any questions they had, or errors made by the first student.

After this, we spent some time 'polishing' the responses, paying attention to the students confirming that they understood the questions by repeating the question back to me with the correct intonation, before proceeding to give their answer. (This also gives them time to prepare to deliver their reply.)

The next stage involved the students not using the written work as a prompt but combining their hand gestures as a form of memory prompt while adding a 'natural look' to their language.

As they became more confident and able to 'ad lib' I started to re-phrase the questions and change my 'posture' to try and create an authentic environment.

Finally, I focused on building self confidence by making the classroom more frightening than the situation they will be in for the interview. I told them that if they can perform in the classroom, then the interview will be "inside their comfort zone". You will need to use your imagination for that one! I also used visualization techniques, where they would stay alone in a room and visualize the interview with them being supremely confident and fluent. The visualization included smells, sounds, and temperature for added realism.

Bill Boyd is an English teacher currently living and teaching in Thailand. He owns and operates this website: <http://eslpal.com>

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTERVIEW

1. Listen to the *content* of what the interviewer is saying. Don't be distracted by things that don't matter, such as the interviewer's appearance or mannerisms.
2. Show interest by responding with appropriate non-verbal cues. *Smile* or *nod your head* when appropriate.
3. If you don't hear the question, say to the interviewer: *"I'm sorry, but I didn't quite catch that. Could you please repeat the question?"*
4. If you don't understand the question, say to the interviewer: *"I'm sorry, but I don't quite understand. Could you please explain the question for me?"*
5. If you've tried but still can't find the answer, look at the interviewer's face, smile and say, *"I'm not sure."*
6. Be polite and humble. Don't interrupt the interviewer. Speak clearly, without "fillers" (*"aha"* or *"ummm"*.)
7. Don't forget to "wai" all the interviewers before taking a seat and at the end of the interview.
8. Eye contact is important. Look directly, but politely, at the interviewer's face when answering a question.
9. Dress in a clean, neat uniform.

Above all, be confident! Show the interviewers that you are the kind of confident young person they are looking for!