

# **Covenant House Interview Questions And Answers Guide.**



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## Covenant House Job Interview Preparation Guide.

### Question # 1

Describe your management style?

#### Answer:-

Try to avoid specific classifications, whatever it may be. Organizations usually prefer managers who can adapt their skills to different situations.

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### Question # 2

In your last job what kinds of pressure did you encounter and how did you react In Covenant House?

#### Answer:-

Do not show your fear or uneasiness in handling pressure. Everyone likes to have a worker who can handle pressure calmly and with a clear train of thought. Show how you would logically come to a conclusion in a pressure filled situation.

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### Question # 3

Can you describe your ideal boss/supervisor?

#### Answer:-

During the interview In Covenant House process employers will want to find out how you respond to supervision. They want to know whether you have any problems with authority, If you can work well as part of a group (see previous question) and if you take instructions well etc. Never ever ever, criticize a past supervisor or boss. This is a red flag for airlines and your prospective employer will likely assume you are a difficult employee, unable to work in a team or take instruction and side with your former employer.

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### Question # 4

What type of people do you not work well with?

#### Answer:-

Be very careful answering this question as most organization employ professionals with an array of personalities and characteristics. You don't want to give the impression that you're going to have problems working with anyone currently employed at the organization. If you through out anything trivial you're going to look like a whiner. Only disloyalty to the organization or lawbreaking should be on your list of personal characteristics of people you can't work with.

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### Question # 5

What is your personal mission statement?

#### Answer:-

Is it to conquer the world? Is it to become a CEO? Is it to give back to the community? Is it to inspire others? Define your statement by stating a clear vision of how you want to make an impact on the world with your work.

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### Question # 6

Give me an example of a time when you set a goal and were able to meet or achieve it?

#### Answer:-

Show that you set great goals and the process and steps you took to achieve it. Details really matter here.

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### Question # 7

Tell me about a time when you were forced to make an unpopular decision?



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### **Answer:-**

Not every decision is popular. In fact, almost every decision is bound to make someone unhappy at some point. The key is to demonstrate how it impacted others positively and why you chose it.

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### **Question # 8**

The change in the business industry now requires you to have a new set of skills you have to learn, how do you react to that?

### **Answer:-**

First, find out which skills are the ones that you're currently lacking. Then identify what the steps would be to acquire/build those skills. Then take action to do so.

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### **Question # 9**

If you have multiple projects on your plate, how do you handle completing them on time?

### **Answer:-**

Prioritize based on business importance. Set clear timelines for each so that you know which ones to knock out first. Get your teammates to help if necessary.

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### **Question # 10**

Give me a specific example of a time when you had to conform to a policy with which you did not agree?

### **Answer:-**

You want to first understand why the policy was put into effect. From there, if you truly disagree with it, explain your position to your management. If they don't change it, then you must accept their decision and continue to work or the alternative decision would be to find a new job.

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### **Question # 11**

What are the goals you've set for yourself?

### **Answer:-**

You could discuss your goals with regards to these categories: Career goals, impact you want to leave on society, financial goals, academic goals, charitable goals.

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### **Question # 12**

Why do you want this job In Covenant House?

### **Answer:-**

This question typically follows on from the previous one. Here is where your research will come in handy. You may want to say that you want to work for a company that is Global Guideline, (market leader, innovator, provides a vital service, whatever it may be). Put some thought into this beforehand, be specific, and link the company's values and mission statement to your own goals and career plans.

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### **Question # 13**

Do you know anyone working with this organization?

### **Answer:-**

It would be great if you did - then you could potentially use them as a referral if they thought highly of you.

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### **Question # 14**

What have you done to improve your knowledge In Covenant House in the last year?

### **Answer:-**

Try to include improvement activities that relate to the job In Covenant House. A wide variety of activities can be mentioned as positive self-improvement. Have some good ones handy to mention.

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### **Question # 15**

Explain me about a problem or disagreement you had with previous supervisor?

### **Answer:-**

This question is trap. It is meant to see whether or not you'll speak poorly of an employer. No one wants to hire someone who's going to speak poorly of them down the road. Stay upbeat and positive - and most of all don't say anything negative about a previous employer.

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### **Question # 16**

Name five characteristics that describe you?

### **Answer:-**



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Here are a few you could choose from:

Hard working, strong willed, persistent, intelligent, adept, amicable, friendly, collaborative, eager, humble.

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### **Question # 17**

What type of salary are you looking for?

**Answer:-**

This can be a very tricky question as the individual asking it is probably digging for something other than a simple answer to the question. We recommend that you don't immediately respond to the question directly. Instead, say something like, "That a difficult question. What is range for this position?" More often than not the interviewer will tell you. If the interviewer insists on direct answer you may want say that it depends on the details of the job - then give a wide salary range.

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### **Question # 18**

If you had enough money to retire would you?

**Answer:-**

Just be honest. If you would retire then say so. But since you can't retire, and the interviewer already knows this, simply answer that since you can't this is type of work you prefer doing. However, if you wouldn't retire if you had the money then explain why. Work is an important element of happiness for most people and many won't retire even when they can.

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### **Question # 19**

How did you become interested in this field/industry?

**Answer:-**

Describe how you've come to develop a passion or interest in this industry and use variables like "culture, people, vision, career development, and the work itself" to define your choice

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### **Question # 20**

Do you work well within a team?

**Answer:-**

Some people are thrown when they are asked this Covenant House question when they are applying for a position to work alone. Every company works as a team, so you are a good team player, give an example of when you have worked well within a team.

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### **Question # 21**

Do you work well on a team? How would you define teamwork?

**Answer:-**

I would define team work as getting the job done In Covenant House whether that means if I have to do more then the guy next to me as long as the work gets finished.

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### **Question # 22**

Give me a few examples of how you're results oriented?

**Answer:-**

Make you give an example where you discuss details and metrics. For example, I was a tutor in my last job and mentored 5 students on their SAT test taking skills and raised their scores by 15% on average after a 3 month teaching stint.

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### **Question # 23**

If you have seven white socks and nine black socks in a drawer, how many socks do you have to pull out blindly in order to ensure that you have a matching pair?

**Answer:-**

if the first one is one color (say, white), and the second one is the other color (black), then the third one, no matter what the color, will make a matching pair. (Sometimes you're not supposed to think that hard.)

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### **Question # 24**

Do you work better on a team, with just one partner, or alone?

**Answer:-**

Ideally you can handle all three well, but you may have a personal preference for one or a few. The key is to make sure you understand what the job is looking for and to pair your answer with that (assuming it's true)

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### **Question # 25**



How do you deal with conflict in the workplace In Covenant House?

**Answer:-**

When people work together, conflict is often unavoidable because of differences in work goals and personal styles. Follow these guidelines for handling conflict in the workplace.

- \* 1. Talk with the other person.
- \* 2. Focus on behavior and events, not on personalities.
- \* 3. Listen carefully.
- \* 4. Identify points of agreement and disagreement.
- \* 5. Prioritize the areas of conflict.
- \* 6. Develop a plan to work on each conflict.
- \* 7. Follow through on your plan.
- \* 8. Build on your success.

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**Question # 26**

How do you feel about this company's vision?

**Answer:-**

First find out where the company envisions itself in 3-5 years. If you can't find the vision of the company, that's probably a big question mark on the company itself. Once you do, identify how those company's visions align to your personal values and goals and then articulate how tightly correlated that is to the interviewer. For example - this company wants to be the #1 provider of green technology in the world and I feel strongly about that vision because we've got a chance to collectively impact the world to become a greener society and save our clients at the same time!

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**Question # 27**

What skills do you bring to the table?

**Answer:-**

Think of your skill sets with regards to: analytical skills, interpersonal skills, communication skills, computer skills, presentation skills, management skills, sales skills and so forth.

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**Question # 28**

What do you think of your previous boss?

**Answer:-**

Do not belittle or talk badly of your last boss - it will come off as being petty. Instead, talk about the positive lessons you were able to learn from your last boss.

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**Question # 29**

If someone had to say something negative to you, what would they say?

**Answer:-**

Again, be honest about sharing a story here about someone who may not have gotten along with you in the office here and explain how you were able to fix that relationship or change your attitude/action to be a better person / coworker.

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**Question # 30**

How would you impact the company?

**Answer:-**

Consider first the role that you're applying for and then think of 3 ways where you could potentially impact the company's bottom line and top line. Then consider how you impact the company in a creative manner (how do you help productivity, the development of new products, marketing etc - of course this part is specific to the role you're applying for)

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**Question # 31**

How do you imagine a typical day of an employee in our company In Covenant House?

**Answer:-**

Just do not say that you imagine to only walk and watch what people do. Rather try to show them your attention to details and proactive attitude to job. Mention that you would try to observe the problems, weaknesses as well as opportunities to improve the results and take measures according to it.

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**Question # 32**

Where do you see yourself in five years In Covenant House?

**Answer:-**

If asked this question, be honest and specific about your future goals, but consider this:

A hiring manager wants to know

- \* a) if you've set realistic expectations for your career,
- \* b) if you have ambition (a.k.a., this interview isn't the first time you're considering the question), and



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\* c) if the position aligns with your goals and growth. Your best bet is to think realistically about where this position could take you and answer along those lines. And if the position isn't necessarily a one-way ticket to your aspirations?  
It's OK to say that you're not quite sure what the future holds, but that you see this experience playing an important role in helping you make that decision.

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### **Question # 33**

What are you passionate about?

#### **Answer:-**

Ask yourself - what are your core passions that you wake up excited to act on each and every day? Ask yourself what makes you happy or drives you - is it helping others? Is it making money? Is it creating something? Is it about changing the world? Etc.

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### **Question # 34**

Why are you interested in this type of job In Covenant House?

#### **Answer:-**

You're looking for someone who enjoys working with the elderly, or a caring, sociable, and nurturing person.

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### **Question # 35**

How many tennis balls can you fit into a limousine? 1,000? 10,000? 100,000? Seriously?

#### **Answer:-**

Well, seriously, you might get asked brainteaser questions like these, especially in quantitative jobs. But remember that the interviewer doesn't necessarily want an exact number-he wants to make sure that you understand what's being asked of you, and that you can set into motion a systematic and logical way to respond. So, just take a deep breath, and start thinking through the math. (Yes, it's OK to ask for a pen and paper!)

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### **Question # 36**

Can you perform Internet research? Please describe to me your steps in doing so?

#### **Answer:-**

Internet research can entail Google searches, industry sites, news articles, social networks and company websites.

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### **Question # 37**

What do you know about our competition?

#### **Answer:-**

Make sure you do your research on their competitors. You can find this by going to yahoo finance and click on their competitors (if they are public). From there research the news on them and go to their websites to understand their positioning on solutions and vision. You can also research local regional companies that are their competition (if it's a smaller private company on a regional scale) by simply typing in similar product offerings in the Google search followed by the city. Make sure you know their competitor's vision, products, culture, and how they are differentiated against their competition (and if they're not, how they could be)

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### **Question # 38**

What makes a product successful?

#### **Answer:-**

Basing on the monetization, these questions give you the chance to prove your personal try. Do not show extremely your optimism and pursue the unreality. Give your answers the reality.

It is useful to predict a five to ten- year- scenario of expectations in order to gain your targets that you set up and it is the period of time to see how your plans and targets are performed.

Therefore, the quality of the product and marketability of the mentioned industry need to be highlighted. This will help you to achieve the interviewer's attention and insurance to you personality and you can get the honest and long- term goals.

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### **Question # 39**

How have you shown yourself to be a leader?

#### **Answer:-**

Think about a time where you've rallied a group of people around a cause / idea / initiative and successfully implemented it. It could be a small or large project but the key is you want to demonstrate how you were able to lead others to work for a common cause.

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### **Question # 40**

How do you handle conflicts with people you supervise?

#### **Answer:-**

At first place, you try to avoid conflicts if you can. But once it happens and there's no way to avoid it, you try to understand the point of view of the other person and find the solution good for everyone. But you always keep the authority of your position.



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### **Question # 41**

What would you like to have accomplished by the end of your career?

#### **Answer:-**

Think of 3 major achievements that you'd like to accomplish in your job when all is said and done - and think BIG. You want to show you expect to be a major contributor at the company. It could be creating a revolutionary new product, it could be implementing a new effective way of marketing, etc.

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### **Question # 42**

How do you keep each member of the team involved and motivated?

#### **Answer:-**

Many managers mistakenly think that money is the prime motivator for their employees. However, according to surveys by several different companies, money is consistently ranked five or lower by most employees. So if money is not the best way to motivate your team, what is?

Employees' three most important issues according to employees are:

- \* Respect
- \* A sense of accomplishment
- \* Recognition

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### **Question # 43**

What's the least rewarding work you've ever done and why?

#### **Answer:-**

Describe work you've done that you feel doesn't take advantage of your full potential. For example, "I once had to make paper copies for my job and I feel it didn't take full advantage of my skills. However, it did teach me to be humble in my work and to appreciate a good opportunity when it arose to use my skills"

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### **Question # 44**

What would you do if our competitor offered you a position In Covenant House?

#### **Answer:-**

I would weigh the offer and consider it, however, this company and this role is my first choice.

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### **Question # 45**

What is your biggest achievement?

#### **Answer:-**

Quality work to be is about doing work to the require or set standard, which is very important when it comes to warehouse operations.

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### **Question # 46**

What are your salary expectations In Covenant House?

#### **Answer:-**

This question is like a loaded gun, tricky and dangerous if you're not sure what you are doing. It's not uncommon for people to end up talking salary before really selling their skills, but knowledge is power as this is a negotiation after all. Again, this is an area where doing your research will be helpful as you will have an understanding of average salary.

One approach is asking the interviewer about the salary range, but to avoid the question entirely, you can respond that money isn't a key factor and you're goal is to advance in your career. However, if you have a minimum figure in mind and you believe you're able to get it, you may find it worth trying.

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### **Question # 47**

How would your friends describe you?

#### **Answer:-**

My friends would probably say that I'm extremely persistent - I've never been afraid to keep going back until I get what I want. When I worked as a program developer, recruiting keynote speakers for a major tech conference, I got one rejection after another - this was just the nature of the job. But I really wanted the big players - so I wouldn't take no for an answer. I kept going back to them every time there was a new company on board, or some new value proposition. Eventually, many of them actually said "yes" - the program turned out to be so great that we doubled our attendees from the year before. A lot of people might have given up after the first rejection, but it's just not in my nature. If I know something is possible, I have to keep trying until I get it.

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### **Question # 48**

How many square feet of pizza are eaten in the United States each month?

#### **Answer:-**

This is a classic guesstimate question where you need to think aloud. And so first off you round the U.S. population to 300 million people (it's actually about 315 million but rounding will be much easier and your interviewer will not score you lower for rounding). Then estimate how many people eat pizza. A decent educated



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guess is two out of every three people, or 200 million. Now let's say the average pizza-eating person eats pizza twice a month, and eats two slices at a time. That's four slices a month. If the average slice of pizza is perhaps six inches at the base and 10 inches long, then the slice is 30 square inches of pizza. So, four pizza slices would be 120 square inches (30 times 4).

Since one square foot equals 144 square inches (12 times 12), let's assume that each person who eats pizza eats one square foot per month. Since there are 200 million pizza-eating Americans, 200 million square feet of pizza are consumed in the U.S. each month. To summarize: 300 million people in America, 200 million eat pizza, average slice of pizza is six inches at the base and 10 inches long or 30 square inches, average American eats four slices of pizza a month, four pieces times 30 square inches equals 120 square inches (one square foot is 144 square inches), so let's assume one square foot per person, and thus one square foot times 200 million people equals 200 million square feet of pizza a month.

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### **Question # 49**

Explain me about a time when you reached a goal within a tight deadline?

#### **Answer:-**

I work well under pressure to meet deadlines without jeopardizing the quality of my work. I have always worked in a fast pace environment where we are constantly under pressure to achieve best results within a time frame.

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### **Question # 50**

How do you decide what to delegate and to whom?

#### **Answer:-**

Identify the strengths of your team members and their availability based on the priorities they have on their plate. From there, invest the tasks upon each member based on where you think you'll get the best return.

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### **Question # 51**

What do you look for in terms of culture -- structured or entrepreneurial?

#### **Answer:-**

A good answer is to discuss the importance of having both elements in a company In Covenant House. Structure is good to maintain a focus on priorities and making sure people are productive but having an entrepreneurial spirit can help cultivate new ideas that can truly help the company.

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### **Question # 52**

Rate yourself on a scale of 10?

#### **Answer:-**

If you truly believe you're a 10, you better be able to explain why with examples / stories. If you believe you're a great contributor and have room to grow, say 8 or 9. If you're below that, explain what you would do to improve yourself to get the ranking you believe you can be.

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### **Question # 53**

Why are you leaving your current job?

#### **Answer:-**

This is a toughie, but one you can be sure you'll be asked. Definitely keep things positive-you have nothing to gain by being negative about your past employers. Instead, frame things in a way that shows that you're eager to take on new opportunities and that the role you're interviewing for is a better fit for you than your current or last position. For example, "I'd really love to be part of product development from beginning to end, and I know I'd have that opportunity here." And if you were let go? Keep it simple: "Unfortunately, I was let go," is a totally OK answer.

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### **Question # 54**

What is your greatest weakness In Covenant House? What are you doing to improve it?

#### **Answer:-**

I believe my biggest weakness In Covenant House is wanting to help anyone I can help. What I mean is I am willing to take on task that are not my job. I want to learn all I can. However, that has helped me get promoted or even asked to help in times of need in other department. I have been know as the "go to person" when help is needed.

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### **Question # 55**

What problems have you encountered at work?

#### **Answer:-**

Wow, do we have problems! Where do I begin? Well, most of the problems are internal, just people not working well with each other. I have one person on our team who is a real problem, but it seems like management is afraid to do anything about it. So we all end up having to do extra work to cover for this person, who just doesn't work. We all say that he's retired in place. I think he's just holding on until retirement in a couple years. But he's a real problem. I complain about it--a lot--but nothing ever seems to get done. I've even written negative reviews about the person, hoping he will get canned, but it doesn't happen. I can't wait for him to retire.

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### **Question # 56**





What is your desired salary In Covenant House?

**Answer:-**

Bad Answer: Candidates who are unable to answer the question, or give an answer that is far above market. Shows that they have not done research on the market rate, or have unreasonable expectations.

Good answer: A number or range that falls within the market rate and matches their level of mastery of skills required to do the job.

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**Question # 57**

Do you have good computer skills?

**Answer:-**

It is becoming increasingly important for medical assistants to be knowledgeable about computers. If you are a long-time computer user with experience with different software applications, mention it. It is also a good idea to mention any other computer skills you have, such as a high typing rate, website creation, and more.

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**Question # 58**

What do you expect to be earning in 5 years In Covenant House?

**Answer:-**

Discuss how you expect yourself to be excellent at your job. Thus, it would be reasonable to expect pay that is based on the merit of your work.

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**Question # 59**

What was the biggest professional risk you have taken and what was the outcome?

**Answer:-**

First discuss how you weighed the pros and cons of the risk and the results you'd believe you could achieve. Then discuss the action plan you put into place for it and outline that step by step. Then discuss the outcome and if it wasn't optimal talk about what you would do differently in hindsight.

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**Question # 60**

What's the most rewarding work you've ever done and why?

**Answer:-**

Companies love it when you discuss how you've made an impact on your teammates, clients, or partners in the business or in school. It should be rewarding because of the hard work and creative process that you've put into it.

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