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# Museum Interpreter Job Interview Preparation Guide.

#### Question #1

Tell me where is Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area?

#### Anewor-

Williamsburg, Virginia. Set your GPS for the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center.

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#### Question # 2

Do you know how to deal with pressure?

#### Answer:-

We have a lot of people come through, and sometime it gets hectic. People have to know how to deal with that and not get flustered.

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#### Question #3

Tell me do you have interest in history?

#### Answer:

I can't tell you how many cover letters I get in which the writer claims that they really love history, but when I look through their resume, they've never done anything that shows they have that interest--not even joining the history club in college.

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#### Question # 4

Do you know how to communicate to the public?

#### Answer:

This is fundamental. Have they had to talk to the public before? I need to see that experience on their resume. Mybe they were a tour guide at their college.

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#### Question # 5

Tell me do you have any experience handling money?

#### Answer:-

All or our interpreters may, at some point, be involved with selling tickets or items in the gift shop. Working as a cashier at a supermarket or a waiter or waitress clearly shows that they can handle money, but people will leave those jobs off their resumes. They're thinking that those jobs are going to detract from their history work, but I'm looking for experience handling money, so when I see those types of jobs, that boosts their chances. They definitely should leave them on. . Being a cashier at a supermarket is great experience. You can deal with money and pressure, and you had to be nice to every person that went through your line, even if they weren't.

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### Question # 6

A snail is at the bottom of a 30 foot well. Every hour the snail is able to climb up 3 feet, then immediately slide back down 2 feet. How many hours does it take for the snail to get out of the well?

#### Answer:-

28 hours. The snail is travelling at one foot per hour, except on the 28th hour the snail has already reached the top of the well, so it will not slide down the 2 feet.

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#### Question #7

You have 8 jars of the same size and shape. Seven of the jars weigh 5 ounces while the eighth jar weights 6. You have a scale you can use to measure the jars but you can only measure twice. How do you find out which is the heavier jar?



#### Answer:-

You take two jars away. Put 3 jars on one side of the scale and 3 jars on the other side. Measure. If neither of them are heavier, the jar must have been in one of the two you took away. Measure and you will find the jar. If one of the scales did tilt, take 1 jar away of the remaining 3 and measure the two remaining jars on each side of the scale. If one tilts, that is the heavier jar. If neither tilts, the one remaining jar must be the heavy one.

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#### Question #8

Basic Museum Interpreter Job Interview Questions:

- \* Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
- \* Share an effective method you have used to describe points of interest to groups
- \* What is the key to success when communicating with the public.
- \* Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
- \* Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

  \* How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)
- \* Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
- \* Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
- \* Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
- \* Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

  \* Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to somone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
- \* Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
- \* Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?
- \* Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
- \* Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

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#### Question # 9

Strengths and Weaknesses Based History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What assignment was too difficult for you?
- \* Time when you made a suggestion to improve the work.
- \* Tell us about the last time you had to negotiate with someone.
- \* How do you see your job relating to the overall goals?
- \* What do you believe are your key strengths?

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#### Question # 10

Situational History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* How do you think you can make a contribution to this company?
- \* How did you handle meeting a tight deadline?
- \* Which subjects did you enjoy during your qualifying degree?
- \* What would make you happy in a job?
- \* What relevant experience do you have?

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#### Question # 11

Video Based History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

- \* What problems have you encountered at work?
- \* What were the responsibilities of your last position?
- \* How have you changed in the last five years?
- \* What was the most important task you ever had?
- \* How did you react when faced with constant time pressure?

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#### Question # 12

Phone Based History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* Can you describe a time when your work was criticized?
- \* Tell me about an important issue you encountered recently.
- \* What are the qualities of a good leader?
- \* Tell about a time that you had to adapt to a difficult situation.
- \* What are three positive character traits you don't have?

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Communication skills based History Museum Interpreter interview questions:



#### Answer:-

- \* What three character traits would your friends use to describe you?
- \* Describe a recent unpopular decision you made.
- \* What major challenges and problems did you face?
- \* What is a typical career path in this job function?
- \* Who has impacted you most in your career and how?

Be very thoughtful about your answer.

No matter the question, applicants should provide positive, result-oriented responses.

Answer History Museum Interpreter interview questions with confidence and maintain proper eye contact with the interviewer.

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#### Question # 14

Informational Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What motivates your best work?
- \* How did you go about making Museum Interpreter assignments?
  \* How would you feel about working for someone who knows less than you?
- \* List five words that describe your character.
- \* Did you have a strategic plan as Museum Interpreter?
- \* Where would you like to be in your career five years from now?
- \* Tell me about your proudest achievement.

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#### Question # 15

Face to Face Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What was the most important task you ever had?
- \* What have you done to support diversity in your unit?
- \* Do you have any other skills of Museum Interpreter experiences that we have not discussed?
- \* What major challenges and problems did you face?
- \* What assignment was too difficult for you?
- \* If offered the Museum Interpreter position, how long do you plan to stay at company?
- \* What's your salary history?

Your prospective employer's corporate web site is the best place to see the company as it wants to be seen.

Review the company's mission statement to understand how it addresses its long-term goals and the way it does business. Museum Interpreter interview questions like these demand specifics.

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#### Question # 16

Competency Based History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

- \* If you were hiring a person for this job, what would you look for?
- \* What was the most complex assignment you have had?
- \* Why did you decide to pursue this career?
- \* What were your annual goals at your most current employer?
  \* What are three positive things your last boss would say about you?

Focus on positive achievements and views.

Answer all History Museum Interpreter interview questions in a calm and collected manner and express an honest desire to work. Start with the present and tell why you are well qualified for the position.

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#### Question # 17

First Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What have you learned from mistakes on the Museum Interpreter job?
- \* What is the most recent skill you have learned that related to Museum Interpreter?
- \* What was the last project you headed up, and what was its outcome?
- \* What is your greatest fear?
- \* What did you like least about your last job?
- \* What is your biggest regret and why?
- \* How do you manage your time?

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#### Question # 18

Behavioral History Museum Interpreter job interview questions:

- \* Tell me about how you worked effectively under pressure.
- \* How do you keep track of things you need to do?
- \* What kinds of situations do you find most stressful?
- \* How do you decide what gets top priority when scheduling your time? Give examples of ideas you've had or implemented.



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#### Question # 19

Phone Based Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* Explain a time that you took initiative as Museum Interpreter.
- \* Are you planning to continue your studies and training for Museum Interpreter?
- \* Tell me about an important issue you encountered recently.
- \* How do you show an interest in what another person is saying?
- \* What are your weaknesses?
- \* What was your most difficult decision?
- \* Do you prefer to work independently or on a team?

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#### Question # 20

Basic Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What is more important to you: the money or the work as Museum Interpreter?
- \* Your greatest weakness in school or at work?
- \* How do you handle failures? Provide examples.
- \* What motivates you to do a good job?
- \* How would you describe your presentation style?
- \* Have you ever acted as a mentor to a co-worker?
- \* Do you prefer to work independently or on a team?

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#### Question # 21

Basic History Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer-

- \* Do you know anyone who works with our company?
- \* How long would you stay with our company?
- \* What is more important to you: the money or the work?
- \* Have you ever had to deal with conflicting deadlines?
- \* Do you have any questions for me?

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#### Question # 22

General Museum Interpreter interview questions:

#### Answer:-

- \* What has been your most successful Museum Interpreter experience in speech making?
- \* What is the most recent skill you have learned that related to Museum Interpreter?
- \* Tell me about the most effective presentation you have made.
- \* What was the most complex assignment you have had?
- \* How long will it take for you to make a significant contribution?
- \* Describe a decision you made that was unpopular and how you handled implementing it.
- \* Tell me about an important goal that you set in the past.

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#### Question # 23

There are 3 light bulbs in a hidden room and 3 switches outside the room that correspond to those light bulbs. You do not know which switch affects which bulb and you cannot see inside of the room. You are allowed to go inside of the room only one time. How do you find out which switch corresponds to which bulb?

#### Answer:

Turn on two switches and wait for a while. Then turn off one switch and go inside the room. The bulb that is still on corresponds to the switch that is still on. Touch the remaining bulbs. The hotter bulb is the switch that you turned off, and the remaining bulb is the switch that you never turned on.

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## Question # 24

Do you know how to deliver customer service?

#### Answer-

Customer service experience--hospitality--is a key role for interpreters. They're the people that our guests, who coming here on their free time--on the weekend or maybe on vacation--interact with They want to learn, but they also want an enjoyable experience.

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#### Question # 25

Tell me how to deal with children?

#### Answer:-



They might have worked at a children's museum or been a teacher.

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#### Question # 26

Do you know what is Colonial Williamsburg?

#### Answer:

The largest living history museum in the United States, Colonial Williamsburg is a private not-for-profit foundation that operates the restored 18th-century capital of colonial Virginia and the adjacent all-encompassing resort.

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