

Makeup Artist interview questions and answers

These **Makeup Artist** interview questions can be used as a guide to discover important skills in your candidates. Adjust them to suit the role you're hiring for.

10 good makeup artist interview questions

1. How do you prepare different skin types before applying makeup?
2. If a customer asked you what's the most suitable foundation tone for them, how would you help?
3. Imagine a customer asked you for a makeup style that was unsuitable for them. How do you handle it?
4. Choose your favorite cosmetic product and sell it to me.
5. What would be the effect of analogous/complimentary colors in makeup?
6. Imagine you make a mistake while you apply makeup to a customer. How do you handle it?
7. If you had to choose makeup according to lighting, how would you go about it?
8. May I see your portfolio?
9. Tell me about two season makeup trends you find interesting.
10. How would you rate your knowledge of the color wheel? How about skintones?

Here are 10 essential interview questions and sample answers to help identify the best candidates for this role.

1. How do you prepare different skin types before applying makeup?

Understanding the unique needs of different skin types is crucial. Whether it's oily, dry, combination, or sensitive skin, each requires a tailored approach to ensure makeup longevity and a flawless finish.

Sample answer:

"For oily skin, I start with a mattifying primer to control shine. For dry skin, I ensure the skin is well-moisturized and use a hydrating primer. It's all about creating a balanced base."

2. If a customer asked you what's the most suitable foundation tone for them, how would you help?

Choosing the right foundation shade is essential for a natural look. It's important to consider undertones and test products in natural light.

Sample answer:

"I'd first determine their undertone – warm, cool, or neutral. Then, I'd swatch a few shades on their jawline to see which one blends seamlessly with their neck and face."

3. Imagine a customer asked you for a makeup style that was unsuitable for them. How do you handle it?

Tact and professionalism are key when guiding clients towards choices that flatter them best.

Sample answer:

"I'd listen to their preferences and then suggest a modified version that incorporates their ideas but is more flattering for their features."

4. Choose your favorite cosmetic product and sell it to me.

This question tests a makeup artist's product knowledge and their ability to communicate benefits.

Sample answer:

"I absolutely love the 'XYZ' setting spray. Not only does it keep makeup in place all day, but it also gives a refreshing, dewy finish. It's like a protective shield for your makeup!"

5. What would be the effect of analogous/complimentary colors in makeup?

Understanding color theory is essential for creating harmonious makeup looks.

Sample answer:

"Analogous colors create a harmonious and cohesive look, as they're next to each other on the color wheel. Complimentary colors, being opposite on the wheel, create contrast and make each other pop when used together."

6. Imagine you make a mistake while you apply makeup to a customer. How do you handle it?

Mistakes happen, but it's how they're addressed that matters.

Sample answer:

"I'd apologize and correct the mistake immediately. It's important to ensure the client is satisfied and feels confident with the final look."

7. If you had to choose makeup according to lighting, how would you go about it?

Lighting can drastically change the appearance of makeup, so it's crucial to adapt accordingly.

Sample answer:

"For natural daylight, I'd go for softer and more natural tones. For artificial or dim lighting, I might opt for slightly bolder shades to ensure the makeup stands out."

8. May I see your portfolio?

A portfolio showcases a makeup artist's versatility and skill.

Sample answer:

"Of course! Here's my portfolio which includes a range of looks from bridal to editorial. I believe it's essential to adapt to different styles and occasions."

9. Tell me about two season makeup trends you find interesting.

Staying updated with trends showcases a makeup artist's passion and dedication to their craft.

Sample answer:

"I've been loving the 'glass skin' trend, which is all about a luminous and translucent complexion. Another favorite is the bold monochromatic looks using one shade for eyes, cheeks, and lips."

10. How would you rate your knowledge of the color wheel? How about skintones?

A deep understanding of colors and undertones is vital for a makeup artist.

Sample answer:

"I'd rate my knowledge as expert. The color wheel is fundamental in makeup artistry, especially when customizing shades. Understanding skintones and undertones ensures that I choose the most flattering colors for each client."

What does a good makeup artist candidate look like?

A proficient makeup artist possesses a blend of technical skill, creativity, and interpersonal abilities. They should be updated with the latest trends, understand the intricacies of different skin types, and have the ability to translate a client's vision into reality.

Red flags

Beware of candidates who lack a professional demeanor, don't prioritize hygiene, or are resistant to feedback. A good makeup artist should be adaptable, open to learning, and always prioritize the client's comfort and satisfaction.

Makeup Artist Interview Questions

The skillset of a makeup artist may vary depending on the setting they work in. For example, a makeup artist working in the film industry needs skills in applying prosthetics and creating special effects, while one working at a salon or retail store needs a better understanding of fashion trends and sales. Devote time during the interview to discover whether the candidate has enough knowledge and experience for that particular position.

Apart from role-specific questions, you can ask questions that refer to common skills of makeup artists. Interpersonal ability, creativity, passion and commitment to health and safety are all essential. Look for candidates that demonstrate their artistry on their person (without being too elaborate) and who are familiar with your company and/or products.

It's always a good idea to ask them for their portfolio. Sometimes, companies may hold an open house interview giving an assignment to all candidates so they can see them in action. If you do, make sure you judge their technique and attitude as well as the result.

Let's summarize some of the questions and add a few more divided into specific types.

Operational and Situational questions

- How do you prepare different skin types before applying make up?
- If a customer asked you what's the most suitable foundation tone for them, how would you help?
- Imagine a customer asked you for a makeup style that was unsuitable for them. How do you handle it?
- Choose your favorite cosmetic product and sell it to me
- What would be the effect of analogous/complimentary colors in makeup?
- Imagine you make a mistake while you apply makeup to a customer. How do you handle it?

- If you had to choose makeup according to lighting, how would you go about it?

Role-specific questions

- May I see your portfolio?
- What fascinates you about this line of work?
- Tell me about two season makeup trends you find interesting
- How would you rate your knowledge of the color wheel? How about skintones?
- Do you have any sales experience?
- What cosmetic products do you use on a regular basis?
- When and how do you clean your tools?
- Do you have experience with FX prosthetics?

Behavioral questions

- Tell me about a time you had a very stressful day at work and how did you handle it?
- Recall a time you had to face a frustrated customer who wasn't satisfied with the hair or makeup services you provided. How did you handle it?
- Have you ever had a conflict with a coworker/supervisor? How did you resolve it?
- Recall a time you gave advice to a customer on how to take care of their makeup