

DJ interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for DJ roles tend to blend a conversation about your music knowledge and experience with a practical demonstration of your skills. Employers want to see how you read a crowd, handle equipment, and represent their venue or brand.

- **Process:** Questions about how you prepare for a gig, from planning a set to setting up equipment.
- **Behavioural:** Questions that ask for a specific example of how you handled a past situation, such as a difficult crowd or a technical issue.
- **Scenario:** Hypothetical situations that test your judgement, especially around client requests and crowd dynamics.
- **Technical:** Questions about your mixing techniques, software proficiency and equipment knowledge.
- **Client-facing:** Questions about how you communicate with clients and handle requests or complaints.
- **Safety:** Questions about equipment safety, venue regulations and responsible service of alcohol.

The interview usually starts with a relaxed chat about your background and influences, then moves to a practical test where you mix live for a short set or explain your setup. You might be asked to talk through a past gig in detail, and there is often time for questions about the venue's style and expectations.

1. Walk me through how you prepare for a gig, from receiving the brief to the first track.

Why they ask

This shows your organisational skills and how you translate a client's vision into a set.

How to structure your answer

A step-by-step walk-through: brief, music research, equipment check, and opening track selection.

Example answer

"First, I clarify the event type, age group, and any must-play or do-not-play tracks. Then I build a playlist with a range of tempos and genres that fit the brief. On the day, I arrive early to set up and test the equipment, and I check the room's acoustics. For the first track, I choose something familiar but not overplayed to draw people in without overwhelming them."

2. Tell me about a time you had to adapt your set because the crowd wasn't responding as expected.

Why they ask

It reveals your ability to read a room and think on your feet.

How to structure your answer

STAR: Situation, Task, Action, Result.

Example answer

"At a corporate event, I started with upbeat pop, but the crowd stayed seated. I noticed they were more interested in chatting than dancing. I switched to lower-tempo funk and soul, which got a few people moving, then gradually built up to more energetic tracks. By the end of the night, most people were on the dance floor, and the organiser booked me for their next event."

3. You're DJing at a wedding and the couple's requested song isn't getting people dancing. What do you do?

Why they ask

It tests your judgement under pressure and your respect for client requests.

How to structure your answer

Assess the situation, consider options, make a decision, and explain your reasoning.

Example answer

"I would finish the song out of respect for the couple's request, but then I'd quickly transition to a track that has a similar feel but a stronger beat or more familiarity. I'd watch the crowd for a few seconds to see if it works. If not, I'd switch to a proven floor-filler and let the couple know later that I made a small adjustment to keep the energy up. I'd also check in with them to see if they want me to try the song again later."

4. How do you approach beatmatching and mixing between tracks with different tempos?

Why they ask

It checks your technical skill and understanding of music structure.

How to structure your answer

Explain your method, including tools and techniques, with a concrete example.

Example answer

"I use Serato DJ Pro and rely on beatgrids and waveforms to align tracks. For different tempos, I either use sync if the crowd wants a seamless blend, or I manually adjust the pitch fader to match beats. If the tempo difference is too large, I'll use a transition that highlights a breakdown or a drop, so the change feels intentional. For example, moving from a 120 BPM house track to a 140 BPM drum and bass track, I'd mix out during a build-up and bring in the new track on the drop."

5. How do you handle a client who keeps requesting songs that don't fit the vibe they originally asked for?

Why they ask

It shows your communication and customer service skills.

How to structure your answer

Acknowledge the request, explain your reasoning, offer alternatives, and find a compromise.

Example answer

"I'd thank them for the request and play it if possible, but I'd also gently remind them of the vibe we agreed on. I might say, 'I can play that, but it might break the energy we've built. How about I play it later when the crowd is more mixed?' If they insist, I'd play it but position it strategically, maybe towards the end of the night. I always aim to keep the client happy while also considering the broader crowd."

6. What checks do you do before a gig to ensure equipment is safe and the venue's RSA requirements are met?

Why they ask

It demonstrates your awareness of legal and safety responsibilities.

How to structure your answer

A checklist approach: equipment, environment, and regulatory.

Example answer

"I always inspect cables for damage and make sure power leads are taped down or routed safely. I check that the equipment is stable and that there's no risk of overheating. I also confirm the venue

has a current music licence and that I understand their RSA policy, especially if I'm working in a bar. If I see anyone who appears overly intoxicated near the booth, I alert security or bar staff. I also carry my own public liability insurance and ensure my setup meets the venue's safety guidelines."