

Fashion Designer interview checklist

Brands and export houses usually start with a portfolio review, set a design task or trend brief, then hold a round with the head designer or merchandiser, and end with HR on pay and location.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. Pick one collection from your portfolio and take us from concept to final garment.

What it checks: Whether you understand the full design process, including research, sampling and production limits, and can present your work clearly to a commercial team.

2. Tell me about a time a sample came back wrong close to a deadline.

What it checks: Problem-solving under production pressure, and whether you fix problems calmly while learning how to prevent them.

3. What salary do you expect for this designer role?

What it checks: Whether your expectation matches the market for the role, brand size and city, and whether you can explain it with your experience.

4. What goes into a tech pack you send to a factory?

What it checks: Production readiness: whether your designs can be sampled correctly by a vendor without endless back-and-forth or costly errors.

5. Describe a time a buyer or head designer rejected your designs.

What it checks: Resilience and openness to feedback, since rejection is routine in fashion and good designers use it to improve.

6. Are you willing to travel to factories and spend time at production units?

What it checks: Whether you are ready for the hands-on side of the job, which includes sampling, quality checks and vendor visits outside the office.

7. Here is a brief and two hours: sketch a mini-range of six pieces. How would you approach it?

What it checks: Your design process under time pressure, and whether you design a cohesive, sellable range instead of six unrelated showpieces.

8. Tell me about a time a supplier delayed fabric and put the launch at risk.

What it checks: Supply chain management and planning skills, and whether you can protect launch dates by finding workable alternatives.

9. Why do you want to design for our brand?

What it checks: Whether you know the brand's customer, price point and design style, and would fit its aesthetic rather than wanting to design only your own taste.

10. How would you choose fabric for a summer kurta range at a mid-market price?

What it checks: Fabric knowledge linked to the customer, climate and budget, which is a core daily decision in Indian fashion brands.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Organise your portfolio as full stories: research, mood board, sketches, flats, fabric swatches and final photos, so the interviewer can see your process.

- Carry at least one physical garment or swatch board, because fabric handle and finishing say more than photos in a design interview.
- Study the brand's current range, price points and customer, and prepare two ideas that fit their style rather than only your own taste.
- Learn basic costing, tech pack structure and fabric terms like GSM, shrinkage and colourfastness, since merchandisers often join the interview panel.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave