Interview Questions for Dietetic Posts

Motivation
- What led to your decision to become a dietician?
- What is it about dietetics that motivates you?
- Why are you interested in working for us?
- Where do you see yourself in ten years’ time?
- What are your short term (1 year) and long term (5 year) career goals?
- What will you bring to this role that is distinctive?
- What do you think will be the most challenging aspect of starting your career as a dietician? And the most enjoyable?

Role and organization
- Tell us about your experience of running group sessions. What have you learnt about making these effective?
- Are there certain techniques that you think work with individuals that would not work with groups?
- What have you found out about the needs of our local population?
- Who do you think are our biggest client group?
- Tell us what you have found out about the local area from a dietetics perspective?

Self Awareness
- What is your greatest strength and biggest weakness?
- If I were to ask other members of your course/placement team what they thought was your biggest strength and biggest weakness, what do you think they would say to me?
- What professional development needs have you identified for yourself in your first year of work?
- If we were to offer you the opportunity to join a training and development course, what area of your practice would you like to focus on?

Clinical Competence
- Describe your nutrition counselling recommendations for a 35 year old male recently diagnosed with AIDS who lives alone and is currently unemployed.
- A physician prescribes a 500 mg sodium diet for a 65 year old female with congestive heart failure. How would you respond to the physician’s order?
- A 70 year old male with acute renal failure on mechanical ventilation recently had a g-tube placed. What form of medical nutrition therapy would you recommend?
- How would you correct a menu for a vegetarian on a high protein high calorie diet who doesn’t consume dairy products?
- What would you say to a patient who returns to clinic and has not achieved any of the previously-set goals?

Transferable Skills
Prioritisation and organization
- How do you prioritize multiple and conflicting demands? Can you give me a recent example?
- Can you describe a time when you have had to organise a project or task over time? What techniques did you use to make sure you hit your deadlines?
- Could you describe a situation in which you feel you successfully prioritised a range of tasks? What helped you to manage this successfully?

Empathy and rapport building
- Can you describe a time when you made a patient feel at ease? How did you know that you have achieved this?
- What do you think are some of the best ways to establish rapport with a patient?
- Can you give me an example of a time when you have built a good rapport with a patient?
Teamwork

- Tell me about a time when you worked in a team that was not functioning well together. What did you do in response to this and what was the outcome?

Communication

- Give an example of a time when you have presented complex information to an audience not familiar with dietetics. How did you do this and what was the feedback?
- Can you describe a situation in which you have disagreed with a colleague or friend about something? How did you put your points across?
- Describe a time when you feel that you used communication skills effectively to improve a situation.

Policy Context

- If you could change any government policy on nutrition, what would it be and why?
- Do you agree that Britain is in the middle of an obesity crisis?
- What is your view on the Government’s new ‘Change4Life’ campaign? Will it work?
- What do you think is the biggest challenge facing dietetics over the next ten years?

Final Questions

- What has been your greatest achievement to date and why does it mean something to you?
- How do you like to relax?
- What are you passionate about outside your career?

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