Here are a few ideas about questions that you need to ask yourself and indeed your wedding suppliers when you are considering using their services for your wedding...

Venue

- Is it available on your chosen date?
- Will it accommodate all your guests?
- Is it close to your ceremony venue?
- Is the price within your budget?
- Does is have in-house caterers with menus you like the look of?
- Will there be other weddings taking place on the same day
- Can you move furniture or pictures?

- Is there accommodation for your guests? Will you get a discounted rate?
- Are you able to have marquee/band/candles/fireworks?
- If you want, can you have a late bar?
- Does the quoted price include VAT and service charge?

Dress

- Is there a fee to try on dresses?
- Will other girls be trying on dresses at the same time as you?
- How long is your appointment?
- Are there a maximum number of dresses you can try on?
- How many people can you bring with you?
- How long should you allow to have your dress made?
- How much do alterations cost?
- How many fittings will you have?
- What do you need to bring with you, e.g., shoes, lingerie etc?
- Are co-ordinating accessories available?
- Do you need to pay a deposit, and when do you pay the balance?
- Do you need to collect your dress when it's ready, or can it be delivered?

Photography

- Does the photographer have a website you can look at to view previous work?
- Do they shoot on film or use a digital camera?
- Is their style of photography reportage (less formal) or traditional (posed)?
- How many pictures will they take?
- Who will have copyright of the pictures?
- How long will the photographer stay on the day?
- Will they visit the venue beforehand?
- How long after the wedding will you receive your photographs?
- How do their fees work, per shot or per package?
- Will you have access to an online gallery of the pictures?

Flowers

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Where can you see examples of the florist's work?

- Are they the recommended florist of any particular venue?

- How many other weddings is the florist doing on the same day as yours?
- Will the florist you've consulted be the actual person doing your flowers?
- Can they help you keep within budget?
- Is there a maximum distance they will travel to dress your venue?
- When will you pay them, and how?
- How far in advance do you need to confirm your order?
- Do they charge for breakages?
- How long do they need to set up?

Catering

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an menus be mixed and matched?

- Do they have testimonials you can see?
- Can they adapt menus to fit your budget?
- Do they offer a menu tasting service?
- Do you have to pay for a menu tasting?
- What does their service include? Do they provide waiting staff?
- Do they provide alcohol, or could you get it cheaper elsewhere?
- If you do provide your own wine, will the corkage costs offset your savings?

Cake

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Can you see examples of your cake maker's styles of work?

- Can you choose from a selection of different cake fillings?
- Is it possible to sample these cake fillings to choose your favourite?
- Can they make any cake for you, or do they specialise in certain styles?
- Is there a minimum spend?
- How can they help you save money/stick to your budget?
- Can you have mixed-flavour layers?
- When will you pay, and how?
- Will they come to your venue to assemble the cake on the day?

Entertainment

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Does your DJ have a versatile play list?

- Out of interest, have they played at our reception site before?

- Does your DJ do any party games?
- Do you act as the “emcee” and make all of the announcements?

- How long is your bands set?

- Does y our band play recorded music between sets?
- Can your band provide a demo CD?
- Do they need to be added to the catering head count?
- When will you pay, and how?
- Do they need a room to get changed?
- How long do they need to set up?