

Locomotive Mechanic Interview Questions

1. Walk me through how you inspect brake systems, steering mechanisms, wheel bearings, and other important parts to ensure that they are in proper operating condition.

2. What kind of experience do you with handtools such as screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, pressure gauges, and precision instruments, as well as power tools such as pneumatic wrenches, lathes, welding equipment, and jacks and hoists?

3. Share an example when you test drove trucks and buses to diagnose malfunctions or to ensure that they are working properly.

4. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, calibrated, or tested a device that operates mainly by electronic principles.

5. Tell me about your qualifications for and your experience handling vehicles and/or mechanized equipment.

6. Tell me about a recent experience you've had working with your hands.

7. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?

8. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.

9. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.

10. Do you use a certain process when performing routine maintenance such as changing oil, checking batteries, and lubricating equipment and machinery?

11. Tell me how you adjust and reline brakes, align wheels, tighten bolts and screws, and reassemble equipment.

12. What is the most challenging part of inspecting, test, and listen to defective equipment to diagnose malfunctions, using test instruments such as handheld computers, motor analyzers, chassis charts, and pressure gauges?

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13. Describe an experience where you attached test instruments to equipment, and read dials and gauges to diagnose malfunctions.

14. What kind of experience do you have raising trucks, buses, and heavy parts or equipment using hydraulic jacks or hoists?

15. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

16. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

17. Tell me about your last experience doing repair work. How did you determine what tools you needed?

18. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

19. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)

20. Tell me about the last time you performed routine maintenance on equipment. How did you determine when and what type of work was needed?

21. Share your knowledge with maintaining or repairing vehicles with alternative fuel systems, including biodiesel, hybrid, or compressed natural gas vehicles. Share an example.

22. Walk me through how you disassemble and overhaul internal combustion engines, pumps, generators, transmissions, clutches, and differential units.

23. What have you found to be the best way to inspect and verify dimensions and clearances of parts to ensure conformance to factory specifications?

24. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish

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an important task.

25. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

26. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

27. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)

28. Share an experience in which you conducted a test of a product, service, or process and successfully improved the quality or performance.

29. Describe an experience in which you successfully controlled the operation of a difficult system. What made you successful?

30. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

31. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.

32. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

33. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

34. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.

35. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.

36. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

37. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

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38. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?