

Research Scientist Interview Questions

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

2. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?

3. What is your background in conducting research on the structures and properties of materials, such as metals, alloys, polymers, and ceramics, to obtain information that could be used to develop new products or enhance existing ones?

4. Describe methods you have found effective when planning laboratory experiments to confirm feasibility of processes and techniques used in the production of materials having special characteristics.

5. What factors do you consider when determining ways to strengthen or combine materials or develop new materials with new or specific properties for use in a variety of products and applications?

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

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

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

9. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?

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

11. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?

12. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.

13. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the

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situation and outcome?
14. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
15. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?
16. Tell me about a time when your ability to analyze needs and product requirements helped you create an effective design or make an informed decision to benefit your company.
17. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.
18. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
19. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
20. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
21. 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.)
22. Describe an experience when you conferred with customers to determine how to tailor materials to their needs.
23. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
24. Share an example when you researched methods of processing, forming, and firing materials to develop such products as ceramic dental fillings, unbreakable dinner plates, and telescope lenses.
25. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

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

27. Walk me through how you would devise testing methods to evaluate the effects of various conditions on particular materials.

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

29. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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

31. What is the most challenging part of monitoring production processes in order to ensure that equipment is used efficiently and that projects are completed within appropriate time frames and budgets?

32. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?

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

34. Share your approach to testing metals to determine conformance to specifications of mechanical strength, strength-weight ratio, ductility, magnetic and electrical properties, and resistance to abrasion, corrosion, heat, and cold.

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

36. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.

37. How do you make sure that manufacturer and governmental quality and safety standards are met? Share an example.

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38. How often do you visit suppliers of materials or users of products to gather specific information? Is it helpful?

39. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

40. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?

41. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)

42. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.

43. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.