

Small Engine Mechanic Interview Questions

1. Describe a time when you successfully serviced, repaired, or tested a machine or device that operates mainly by mechanical principles.

2. What kind of experience do you have repairing and maintaining gasoline engines used to power equipment such as portable saws, lawn mowers, generators, and compressors?

3. Describe methods you have found effective to test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, and to verify repairs, using diagnostic instruments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11. Name a time when you adjusted points, valves, carburetors, distributors, and spark plug gaps, using feeler gauges.

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

13. What is the most challenging part of reassembling engines after repair or maintenance work is complete?

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

15. What have you found to be the best way to obtain problem descriptions from customers, and prepare cost estimates for repairs?

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

17. Share an example when you effectively showed customers how to maintain equipment.

18. 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.)

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

20. 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.)

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

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

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

24. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

25. Walk me through how you would grind, ream, rebore, and retap parts to obtain specified clearances, using grinders, lathes, taps, reamers, boring machines, and micrometers.

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26. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

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

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

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

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

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

32. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

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

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

35. 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.)

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

37. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?

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

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

40. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

41. Describe a time when you were able to select the best tool to do a job. How did you use reasoning skills to make the best choice?

42. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?

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

44. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.

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