

Microbiological Laboratory Technician 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. Share your approach to investigate the relationship between organisms and disease including the control of epidemics and the effects of antibiotics on microorganisms.

4. Tell me about the last time you provided laboratory services for health departments, for community environmental health programs and for physicians needing information for diagnosis and treatment.

5. Describe methods you have found effective to use a variety of specialized equipment such as electron microscopes, gas chromatographs and high pressure liquid chromatographs, electrophoresis units, thermocyclers, fluorescence activated cell sorters and phosphoimagers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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14. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)

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

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

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

18. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

19. Share an experience in which you used new training skills, ideas, or a method to adapt to a new situation or improve an ongoing one. (Look for the candidate's ability to learn.)

20. 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?

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

22. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)

23. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

24. What factors do you consider when you monitor and perform tests on water, food, and the environment to detect harmful microorganisms or to obtain information about sources of pollution, contamination, or infection?

25. Share an example when you supervised biological technologists and technicians and other scientists.

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

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. What kind of experience do you have examining physiological, morphological, and cultural characteristics, using microscope, to identify and classify microorganisms in human, water, and food specimens?

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

30. Share an effective approach to study growth, structure, development, and general characteristics of bacteria and other microorganisms to understand their relationship to human, plant, and animal health.

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

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

33. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

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

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

36. 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.)

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

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38. Describe methods you have helpful to study the structure and function of human, animal and plant tissues, cells, pathogens and toxins.

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

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

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

42. Name a time when you developed new products and procedures for sterilization, food and pharmaceutical supply preservation, or microbial contamination detection.

43. 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.

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

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

46. 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.)