

Railroad Car Inspector Interview Questions

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

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

3. What kind of experience do you have inspecting vehicles or other equipment for evidence of abuse, damage, or mechanical malfunction?

4. Describe methods you have found effective to conduct vehicle or transportation equipment tests, using diagnostic equipment.

5. Share an example when you effectively inspected vehicles or equipment to ensure compliance with rules, standards, or regulations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

12. Describe an experience when you inspected repairs to transportation vehicles or equipment to ensure that repair work was performed properly.

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

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

15. Tell me about the last time when you had to investigate complaints regarding safety violations.

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

17. Walk me through how you would examine carrier operating rules, employee qualification guidelines, or carrier training and testing programs for compliance with regulations or safety standards.

18. What is the most challenging part of issuing notices and recommending corrective actions when infractions or problems are found?

19. What factors do you consider when investigating and making recommendations on carrier requests for waiver of federal standards?

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

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

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

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

24. Share an example when you investigated incidents or violations, such as delays, accidents, and equipment failures.

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

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

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 your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

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

30. How would you negotiate with authorities, such as local government officials, to eliminate hazards along transportation routes?

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

32. Share your effective approach to evaluate new methods of packaging, testing, shipping, or transporting hazardous materials to ensure adequate public safety protection.

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

34. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

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

36. 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.)

37. What kind of experience do you have performing low-pressure fuel evaluative tests (LPFET) to test for harmful emissions from vehicles without onboard diagnostics (OBD) equipment?

38. What have you found to be the best way to monitor or review output from systems, such as Thermal Imaging Units (TIU) or roadside imaging tools, to identify high risk commercial motor vehicles for follow-up

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inspections?

39. Walk me through how you identify emissions testing procedures and standards appropriate for the age and technology of vehicles.

40. Name a time when you conducted remote inspections of motor vehicles, using handheld controllers and remotely directed vehicle inspection devices.

41. Describe methods you have found effective to compare emissions findings with applicable emissions standards.

42. Tell me how you would attach onboard diagnostics (OBD) scanner cables to vehicles to conduct emissions inspections.

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

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

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

46. Share an experience in which you oversaw the assembly, fabrication, construction, maintenance, or modification of equipment. How did you communicate to the staff what you wanted?