

Research Chemist Interview Questions

1. What methods do you use when studying physical principles of living cells and organisms and their electrical and mechanical energy, applying methods and knowledge of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and biology?

2. Share an event where you shared research findings by writing scientific articles and by making presentations at scientific conferences.

3. Walk me through how you isolate, analyze, and synthesize vitamins, hormones, allergens, minerals, and enzymes, and determine their effects on body functions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. What is the most challenging part of studying the chemistry of living processes, such as cell development, breathing and digestion, and living energy changes such as growth, aging, and death?

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14. Share an example where you studied the mutations in organisms that lead to cancer and other diseases.

15. What kind of experience do you have developing and test new drugs and medications intended for commercial distribution?

16. Share what process you use to develop and execute tests to detect diseases, genetic disorders, or other abnormalities.

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

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

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

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

21. Has there been a time where you were part of design and building laboratory equipment needed for special research projects? If so, share an experience.

22. Do you enjoy teaching and advising undergraduate and graduate students, and supervising their research? If so, share a success story.

23. Describe an experience where you prepared pharmaceutical compounds for commercial distribution.

24. Have you ever studied spatial configurations of submicroscopic molecules such as proteins, using x-rays and electron microscopes? If so, share an example.

25. What is the most challenging part of managing laboratory teams, and monitor the quality of a team's work? Share an example.

26. Share a successful way to prepare reports and recommendations based upon research outcomes.

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

28. 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.)

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

30. 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.)

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

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

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

34. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring your company was compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that were applicable to your area of responsibility?

35. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?

36. Share your experience researching the chemical effects of substances such as drugs, serums, hormones, and food on tissues and vital processes.

37. Tell me how you investigate the nature, composition, and expression of genes, and research how genetic engineering can impact these processes.

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

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39. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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

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

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

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

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

45. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?

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.)

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