Geological Specialist Interview Questions

1. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.
2. What kind of experience do you have analyzing and interpreting geological, geochemical, or geophysical information from sources such as survey data, well logs, bore holes, or aerial photos?
3. Describe an experience when you planned or conducted geological, geochemical, or geophysical field studies or surveys, sample collection, or drilling and testing programs used to collect data for research or application.
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. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
7. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?
8. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
9. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
10. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
11. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
12. 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?
13. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

14. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
15. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.
16. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
17. What is the most challenging part of assessing ground or surface water movement to provide advice regarding issues such as waste management, route and site selection, or the restoration of contaminated sites?
18. 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.)
19. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
20. Walk me through how you would prepare geological maps, cross-sectional diagrams, charts, or reports concerning mineral extraction, land use, or resource management, using results of fieldwork or laboratory research.
21. Describe methods you have found effective to locate and estimate probable natural gas, oil, or mineral ore deposits or underground water resources, using aerial photographs, charts, or research or survey results.
22. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
23. Name a time when you investigated the composition, structure, or history of the Earth's crust through the collection, examination, measurement, or classification of soils, minerals, rocks, or fossil remains.
24. 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.)

25. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?
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. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
28. When is the last time you conducted geological or geophysical studies to provide information for use in regional development, site selection, or development of public works projects?
29. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?
30. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
31. How often do you search for and review research articles or environmental, historical, and technical reports?
32. Share your approach to measure characteristics of the Earth, such as gravity or magnetic fields, using equipment such as seismographs, gravimeters, torsion balances, or magnetometers.
33. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
34. What kind of experience do you have inspecting construction projects to analyze engineering problems, applying geological knowledge and using test equipment and drilling machinery?
35. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.
36. What have you found to be the best way to design geological mine maps, monitor mine structural integrity, or advise and monitor mining crews?
37. What is the most challenging part of advising construction firms or government agencies on dam or road

construction, foundation design, land use, or resource management?
38. Walk me through how you identify risks for natural disasters such as mud slides, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, providing advice on mitigation of potential damage.
39. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?
40. Name a time when you communicated geological findings by writing research papers, participating in conferences, or teaching geological science at universities.
41. When is the last time you studied historical climate change indicators found in locations such as ice sheets or rock formations to develop models related to current climate changes?
42. Describe an experience when you provided advice on the safe siting of new nuclear reactor projects or methods of nuclear waste management.
43. Describe methods you have found effective to identify new sources for Platinum Group Elements necessary for industrial uses, such as automotive fuel cells or pollution abatement systems.
44. Have you ever been able to develop ways to capture or use gases that are currently burned off as waste during oil production processes?
45. What is the most challenging part of collaborating with medical or health researchers to address health problems related to geological materials or processes?
46. 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.)
47. Describe what methods you have found helpful to review environmental cleanup work plans to determine the effectiveness of the remedial activities for mitigating soil or groundwater contamination.
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49. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?