

Cytologist Interview Questions

1. Describe methods you have found effective to count numbers of chromosomes and identify the structural abnormalities by viewing culture slides through microscopes, light microscopes, or photomicroscopes.
2. What kind of experience do you have examining chromosomes found in biological specimens to detect abnormalities? Share an experience.
3. Tell me how you analyze chromosomes found in biological specimens to aid diagnoses and treatments for genetic diseases such as congenital birth defects, fertility problems, and hematological disorders.
4. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
5. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
6. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?
7. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?
8. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?
9. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
10. Walk me through how you arrange and attach chromosomes in numbered pairs on karyotype charts, using standard genetics laboratory practices and nomenclature, to identify normal or abnormal chromosomes.
11. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
12. Name a time where you prepared biological specimens such as amniotic fluids, bone marrow, tumors, chorionic villi, and blood, for chromosome examinations.

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13. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
14. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?
15. Share your knowledge of selecting or preparing specimens and media for cell cultures using aseptic techniques, knowledge of medium components, or cell nutritional requirements.
16. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
17. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
18. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
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. Share an effective approach to selecting appropriate methods of preparation and storage of media to maintain potential of hydrogen (pH), sterility, or ability to support growth.
21. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
22. How do you determine optimal time sequences and methods for manual or robotic cell harvests? Share an example.
23. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
24. What is the most challenging part of recognizing and reporting abnormalities in the color, size, shape, composition, or pattern of cells?
25. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

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26. What is the key to success when developing and implementing training programs for trainees, medical students, resident physicians or post-doctoral fellows?

27. How do you stay up to date with new or improved techniques to identify appropriate methods of specimen collection, preservation, or transport?

28. What is the most challenging part of communicating test results or technical information to patients, physicians, family members, or researchers?

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

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

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

32. 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.

33. 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.)

34. Describe an experience in which you identified the educational needs of your students and successfully developed a way to teach/train them.

35. 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.)

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

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

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

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

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

41. 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?

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

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

44. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.

45. 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.)

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

47. 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?

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

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

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

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51. 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.)

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