

Utility Specialist Interview Questions

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

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

3. Name a time when you diagnosed mechanical problems and determined how to correct them, checking blueprints, repair manuals, or parts catalogs, as necessary.

4. Describe methods you have found effective to perform routine preventive maintenance to ensure that machines continue to run smoothly, building systems operate efficiently, or the physical condition of buildings does not deteriorate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13. What kind of experience do you have using tools ranging from common hand and power tools, such as

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hammers, hoists, saws, drills, and wrenches, to precision measuring instruments and electrical and electronic testing devices?

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

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

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

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

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

19. 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.)

20. What is the most challenging part of assembling, installing, or repair wiring, electrical or electronic components, pipe systems, plumbing, machinery, or equipment?

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

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

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

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

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

28. What have you found to be the best way to maintain and repair specialized equipment and machinery found in cafeterias, laundries, hospitals, stores, offices, or factories?

29. Walk me through how you would dismantle devices to access and remove defective parts, using hoists, cranes, hand tools, and power tools.

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. Share your approach when planning and laying out repair work, using diagrams, drawings, blueprints, maintenance manuals, or schematic diagrams.

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

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

34. 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?

35. Describe methods you have found effective when inspecting used parts to determine changes in dimensional requirements, using rules, calipers, micrometers, or other measuring instruments.

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

37. Tell me about the last time you trained and managed maintenance personnel and subcontractors.

38. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What

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guidance and direction did you find most effective?

39. Describe a time when you were able to select the best tool to do a job. How did you use reasoning skills to make the best choice?

40. 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.)

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

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

43. 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?

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

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

46. Share an example when you had to lay brick to repair or maintain buildings, walls, arches, or other structures.

47. Share an experience in which you successfully installed a difficult piece of equipment. What made the situation so difficult?

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

49. What factors do you consider when designing new equipment to aid in the repair or maintenance of machines, mechanical equipment, or building structures.

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50. Name a time when you performed routine maintenance on boilers, such as replacing burners or hoses, installing replacement parts, or reinforcing structural weaknesses to ensure optimal boiler efficiency.

51. Describe an experience when you successfully installed equipment to improve the energy or operational efficiency of residential or commercial buildings.

52. 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?