

General Forecaster Interview Questions

1. Share an experience when you had to broadcast weather conditions, forecasts, or severe weather warnings to the public via television, radio, or the Internet or provide this information to the news media.

2. Tell me how you prepare forecasts or briefings to meet the needs of industry, business, government, or other groups.

3. Walk me through how you study and interpret data, reports, maps, photographs, and charts to predict long- and short-range weather conditions, using computer models and knowledge of climate theory, physics, and mathematics.

4. What is the most challenging part of developing and using weather forecasting tools, such as mathematical and computer models?

5. Share what methods you use to measure wind, temperature, and humidity in the upper atmosphere, using weather balloons?

6. What kind of experience do you have operating computer graphic equipment to produce weather reports and maps for analysis, distribution, or use in weather broadcasts?

7. Describe methods you have found useful to conduct basic or applied meteorological research into the processes and determinants of atmospheric phenomena, weather, and climate.

8. What factors do you consider when you design or develop new equipment or methods for meteorological data collection, remote sensing, or related applications? Share an experience.

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

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

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

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

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13. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?

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

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

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

17. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?

18. Walk me through how you collect and analyze historical climate information such as precipitation and temperature records to help predict future weather and climate trends.

19. Share an experience when you gathered data from sources such as surface or upper air stations, satellites, weather bureaus, or radar for use in meteorological reports or forecasts.

20. 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.)

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

22. Share an experience in which your ability to consider the costs or benefits of a potential action helped you choose the most appropriate action.

23. 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?

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

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25. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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

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

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

29. 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.

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

31. Tell me about how you research and analyze the impact of industrial projects and pollution on climate, air quality, and weather phenomena.

32. What kind of experience do you have directing forecasting services at weather stations or at radio or television broadcasting facilities?

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

34. Describe an experience when you applied meteorological knowledge to problems in areas including agriculture, pollution control, and water management, and to issues such as global warming or ozone depletion.

35. What have you found to be the best way to estimate or predict the effects of global warming over time for specific geographic regions?

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.)

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

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

39. 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.)

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

41. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

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

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

44. Describe methods you have useful to collect air samples from planes or ships over land or sea to study atmospheric composition.

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

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

47. Walk me through how you conduct numerical simulations of climate conditions to understand and predict global or regional weather patterns.

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

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

50. What is your experience formulating predictions by interpreting environmental data, such as meteorological, atmospheric, oceanic, paleoclimate, climate, or related information?

51. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.

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

53. 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.)