

Surface Hydrologist Interview Questions

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

2. Walk me through how you would design and conduct scientific hydrogeological investigations to ensure that accurate and appropriate information is available for use in water resource management decisions.

3. Describe methods you have found effective to evaluate data and provide recommendations regarding the feasibility of municipal projects, such as hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, flood warning systems, and waste treatment facilities.

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. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?

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

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

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

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

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

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14. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
15. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.
16. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
17. 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?
18. 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.
19. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
20. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)
21. 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?
22. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
23. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
24. Describe an experience when you studied and analyzed the physical aspects of the earth in terms of the hydrological components, including atmosphere, hydrosphere, and interior structure?
25. 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

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can demonstrate some initiative.)

26. Name a time when you investigated properties, origins, and activities of glaciers, ice, snow, and permafrost.

27. What is the most challenging part of answering questions and providing technical assistance and information to contractors or the public regarding issues such as well drilling, code requirements, hydrology, and geology?

28. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

29. What system have you found useful to evaluate research data in terms of its impact on issues such as soil and water conservation, flood control planning, and water supply forecasting?

30. Share your approach to apply research findings to help minimize the environmental impacts of pollution, waterborne diseases, erosion, and sedimentation.

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

33. What kind of experience do you have developing computer models for hydrologic predictions?

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

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

36. Share an example when you effectively prepared hydrogeologic evaluations of known or suspected hazardous waste sites and land treatment and feedlot facilities.

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

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

39. 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.)

40. Walk me through how you would study and document quantities, distribution, disposition, and development of underground and surface waters.

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

42. Name a time when you investigated complaints or conflicts related to the alteration of public waters, gathering information, recommending alternatives, informing participants of progress, and preparing draft orders.

43. What is the most challenging part of monitoring the work of well contractors, exploratory borers, and engineers and enforce rules regarding their activities?

44. What have you found to be the best way to design civil works associated with hydrographic activities and supervise their construction, installation, and maintenance?

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

46. Describe methods you have found effective to compile and evaluate hydrologic information to prepare navigational charts and maps and to predict atmospheric conditions.

47. Share an effective approach to conduct research and communicate information to promote the conservation and preservation of water resources.

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

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

50. Describe an experience when you coordinated and supervised the work of professional and technical staff, including research assistants, technologists, and technicians.

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

52. 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.)

53. Tell me how you study public water supply issues, including flood and drought risks, water quality, wastewater, and impacts on wetland habitats.