

Job Cost Estimator Interview Questions

1. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
2. Share an experience in which consulting with appropriate parties helped you to formulate an effective estimates and/or resolve issues.
3. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.
4. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.
5. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
6. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
7. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
8. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
9. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
10. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
11. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?
12. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
13. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was

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the impact?

14. 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?

15. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?

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

17. In your experience, what is the key to developing a good team? (Look for how they build mutual trust, respect, and cooperation.)

18. What is the key to a successful budget?

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. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

21. 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?

22. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?

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

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

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

26. What methods do you use to prepare time, cost, materials, and/or labor estimates? Provide an example.

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(Make sure the candidate is familiar with analyzing documentation.)

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

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

29. Tell me about your last experience preparing estimates for use in selecting vendors and/or subcontractors.

30. 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.)

31. 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.)

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

33. In your experience, what is the key to ensuring your company was compliant with all laws, regulations and standards that were applicable to your area of responsibility?

34. Share an experience in which conferring with an engineer, an architect, an owner, a contractor, or a subcontractor helped you make an accurate adjustment on a cost estimate.

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

36. Tell me about your last experience planning, organizing, and scheduling work. What is one thing you would like to improve upon?

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

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

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

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40. Describe your last experience preparing cost and expenditure statements and related documentation. What is one thing you are trying to improve?

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41. 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.

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42. Tell me about a cost monitoring and reporting system you set up.

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43. Share an effective method you have used to assess cost effectiveness of products, projects, and services.

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

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

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

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

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

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49. Describe a study you conducted which successfully reduced costs.

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

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

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person.
52. How do you decide whether to produce or purchase components?
53. What is the current state of your directory of suppliers, contractors, and subcontractors? What is one thing you would like to improve about your directory maintenance?
54. Describe an experience in which your ability to work well with others and reconcile differences helped your company or employer. (Make sure the candidate knows how to negotiate.)
55. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?
56. Tell me about a negotiation you made which you were happy with. How about one you were unhappy with?
57. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?
58. 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.)
59. What is the most challenging part of budgeting for you?
60. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?
61. 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.)
62. Tell me about your last experience recruiting, interviewing, or hiring an employee. What techniques did you find most effective in finding the right person for the job?
63. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?

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