

## Research Assistant Interview Questions

1. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
2. Describe your experience conducting chemical analysis of body fluids.
3. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
4. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
5. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
6. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
7. 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?
8. Share an effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?
9. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.
10. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?
11. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
12. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
13. Share an effective method you have used to ensure the accuracy of laboratory results.

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14. Provide an experience in which you used microscopic techniques to determine the characteristics of blood samples.

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

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

17. Describe an experience in which you cultivated and/or assisted in the identification of microbial organisms. What tests have you performed on these organisms?

18. Share an experience in which you analyzed samples of biological material for chemical content or reaction.

19. Provide an effective method you have used to maintain equipment used in quantitative or qualitative analysis.

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

21. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

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

23. Provide a time when you used aseptic technique and knowledge of medium components and cell requirements to select and prepare specimens and media for cell cultures.

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

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

26. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was

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the impact?

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

28. Share an effective method you have used to provide technical information about test results to physicians, family members, or researchers.

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

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

32. 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.)

33. Share an experience in which you used your knowledge of cell cycle differences and culture conditions to determine the optimum time to harvest cell cultures.

34. Share an experience in which you successfully supervised and trained assistants or other workers. What methods made you successful?

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

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

37. 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.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

46. 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.)

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

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

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

50. 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?

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51. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?
52. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
53. Describe a time when you successfully provided personal assistance to a coworker or patron.
54. Provide an experience in which you conducted medical research under the direction of a microbiologist or biochemist.
55. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the work of someone else. How did you effectively motivate, develop, and direct the worker(s)?
56. Describe an experience in which you successfully controlled the operation of a difficult system. What made you successful?
57. Provide an experience in which your ability to actively find ways to help people improved your company or your own work ethic.
58. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?
59. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.
60. 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.)
61. Tell me about the last time you performed routine maintenance on equipment. How did you determine when and what type of work was needed?
62. 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?

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63. Tell me about a time when you successfully determined the cause of an operating error at your company and solved the problem.

64. How do you stay fit in order to perform physical activities that are required in the workplace?

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

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

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

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