

Equipment Operator Interview Questions

1. Tell me about your qualifications for and your experience handling vehicles and/or mechanized equipment.
2. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.
3. Tell me about the last time you monitored or reviewed information and detected a problem. How did you respond?
4. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
5. What kind of experience do you have prying off loose material from roofs and moving it into the paths of machines, using crowbars?
6. Walk me through how you would operate levers to move conveyor booms or shovels so that mine contents such as coal, rock, and ore can be placed into cars or onto conveyors.
7. What is the most challenging part of advancing machines in order to gather material and convey it into cars?
8. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
9. Describe methods you have found effective to signal workers to move loaded cars.
10. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
11. Share your approach to observe and record car numbers, carriers, customers, tonnages, and grades and conditions of material.
12. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
13. 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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14. Share an experience in which you've successfully learned how to handle a new piece of equipment?

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

16. 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.)

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

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

19. What factors do you consider when inspecting boarding and locking of open-top box cars and wedging of side-drop and hopper cars in order to prevent loss of material in transit?

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