

Research Scientist Interview Questions

1. What have you found to be the best way to analyze organic or inorganic compounds to determine chemical or physical properties, composition, structure, relationships, or reactions, using chromatography, spectroscopy, or spectrophotometry techniques?

2. Describe methods you have found effective to maintain laboratory instruments to ensure proper working order and troubleshoot malfunctions when needed.

3. Walk me through how you confer with scientists or engineers to conduct analyses of research projects, interpret test results, or develop nonstandard tests.

4. What is the most challenging part of preparing test solutions, compounds, or reagents for laboratory personnel to conduct tests? Share an example.

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

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

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

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

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

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respond?
14. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
15. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
16. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
17. Tell me how you compile and analyze test information to determine process or equipment operating efficiency or to diagnose malfunctions.
18. Describe an experience where you directed, coordinated, or advised personnel in test procedures for analyzing components or physical properties of materials.
19. What kind of experience do you have developing, improving, or customizing products, equipment, formulas, processes, or analytical methods?
20. 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?
21. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?
22. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
23. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
24. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
25. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.

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

27. What have you found to be the best way to evaluate laboratory safety procedures to ensure compliance with standards and to make improvements as needed?

28. Tell me how you induce changes in composition of substances by introducing heat, light, energy, or chemical catalysts for quantitative or qualitative analysis.

29. How much time do you spend writing technical papers or reports or prepare standards and specifications for processes, facilities, products, or tests? Share an example.

30. 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.)