Mainframe Systems Programmer Interview Questions

1. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.

2. Share an experience in which you successfully improved the performance of existing software.

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

5. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)

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

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

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. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?

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

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

13. Tell me about some of your most recent computer programming projects.

14. Provide an example of a project you worked on that demonstrates your programming abilities. What was your role in the project?

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

16. Tell me about a time when your ability to analyze needs and product requirements helped you create an effective design or make an informed decision to benefit your company.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 can demonstrate some initiative.)

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

helped your employer.
27. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
28. 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.)
29. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?
30. 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.