Laboratory Science
Interview Questions

- Describe your field experience: sample type collected, sampling techniques, field measurements taken and equipment used.
- Please describe your experience with knowledge of Quality Assurance and Quality Control Analyses.
- Describe your experience with analytical instrumentation.
- Have you developed or assisted with the development of lab or sampling procedures? Please describe.
- Have you had a job where you had to meet strict deadlines? What percentage of those deadlines were you able to meet? What were the contributing factors in them not being met?
- What do you consider when organizing your work?
- With respect to your interpersonal skills, describe the nature and frequency of interactions in your previous positions and with whom you interacted.
- How would you solve any personal conflicts with co-workers?
- Describe experience with the following techniques: iodinating proteins, cell cultures, RNA isolation and measurements, protein assays, histology, fixing, embedding and sectioning tissue, samples for regular histology and immunocytochemistry.
- Much of this work is done independently in a room away from the main lab and you would be working alone for several hours. Can you give an example of working in this type of environment and whether or not this would present any difficulties?
- Give an example or two of the types of repetitive tasks you've had to perform, how often you performed them and how you ensured a high level of accuracy while doing repetitive tasks.
- Describe the level of supervision you've received in the past and the type of work you did independently.
- Can you describe a situation you've encountered in dealing with conflict in the work place? How did you handle the conflict?
- Can you give an example of a change in procedures, or priorities you had to make?
- Please describe your experience with lab notes, how accurate they needed to be and what the ramifications were if not accurate.
- What influenced you to study the course you did?
- What are the skills and attributes that make a good chemist/environmental scientist/food technologist/administrator in public health/technical analyst?
- What area of chemistry/public health/environmental issues are you most interested in?
- What laboratory techniques are you familiar with?
- This job requires a passion for “hands on” lab work. What makes you a good technician in the lab?
- Can you give an example of when you identified a safety issue and resolved it?
- What are important safety factors to be considered when working in a laboratory?
- Tell me about some of the written work you have done. What is the best assignment you wrote? Why?
- Tell me about a time when you worked well in a team. What was your role? What did the team achieve?
- Tell me about a time you had to convince someone of your point of view. What was the situation? How did you persuade them?
- Can you give me an example of when you used your initiative to solve a problem?
- Tell me about a time you used good judgment to solve a problem.
- How do you organize your time and plan activities?
- What would be an example of you giving an assignment or piece of work your best effort and being disappointed by the outcome? What would you do differently?
- How do you feel about doing more study?
- Is your academic performance an indicator of how you will perform in this job?
- Give me an example of when you set a goal and achieved it?
- What subjects have you done best in at college? Why?
- This job requires the ability to work autonomously. Do you think you can do that?
- Why do you want to do research?
- What do you think is important when keeping records of testing?