



GIS Interview Questions

The below questions will help you realize that hiring managers want more than just a person who can run a piece of software, write an app or make a map. They are looking for wellrounded, interesting and interested people who can grow as the position and company do.

Common General Questions

- Why do you want this job?
- Why should we hire you for this position?
- What is your biggest weakness/strength?
- How do you handle multiple deadlines and projects at a time?
- What do you know about our company?
- Do you have any questions for us?

Skills Questions

- Tell me about a new skill you taught yourself (need not be GIS). How did you teach yourself?
- Here's an online map. What works well? Why? Where do you see room for improvement? Why?
- How would you describe what GIS is to a sixth grader? What's your favorite programming language? Why?
- What's the topic of the last GIS presentation you gave for work or school? How did the presentation go? How did you prepare for it? What would you have changed, looking back on it?
- What book or website do you reference the most in doing your GIS work/homework? What sort of information are you typically seeking?
- What are three things you might do if you got stuck while working on a school or professional project?
- What can you tell me about open source? How do you feel about it? Have you used it? How? Why?
- What can you tell me about open data? Have you used it? How? Why?
- What do you know about OpenStreetMap? Have you contributed? Why or why not?
- Do you use a GPS in your car/bike or on foot? Why or why not?

Interest and Motivation Questions

- Tell me about a map or mapping project you did outside of work or school. □
What's the next thing you want to learn about in GIS/geospatial technology? Why? □
What first got you interested in geospatial technology?
- Who was most influential in spiking your interest in GIS?
- If you are the GIS person in the backroom, why do you think what you do should be in/on the _____ (boardroom/sales team/training team/etc.)?

Professionalism and Industry Awareness Questions

- What do you like best about your current/last job/GIS courses at school?
- Give me your elevator pitch for why this company needs your GIS skills.
- Are programming skills important in GIS? Why/why not?
- Will the GIS profession go the way of the office secretary/typist?
- Does GIS belong in IT or elsewhere (planning, engineering, etc.)?
- Do you think like a geographer or a _____ (marketer, forester, geologist, programmer, etc.)?

Additional Technical Questions

- If you got a shapefile with all the airports in the world, how would you quickly QA this data?
- If you were to give someone directions from point A to point B, how would you go about doing it?
- If you are driving down a road, what are the things you make note of? How would you solve this problem?
- Someone wants to go from Point A to B. How could you create a map to help him?
- What is your experience as an end user in a GIS platform?
- What is the difference between vector and raster data?
- How would you confirm a town or area's name? How would you locate addresses?
- Describe your skill and ability to use GIS software and other related GIS devices and/or instruments, to prepare map layers, and to perform spatial analysis. Be specific to the types of GIS software. Also describe any ArcGIS Online experience.
- Describe a challenging or complex mapping or geospatial problem or project that you encountered. Describe the project or problem, the steps you took from beginning to end, as well as detail related to size and scope, your specific role, and the outcome.

Sources

"Prepare to Get That Job: 20 Challenging GIS Interview Questions," Directions Magazine:

<https://www.directionsmag.com/article/1711>

"GIS Technician Interview Questions," Glassdoor:

<https://www.glassdoor.com/Salaries/index.htm>

GIS Technician Supplemental Questionnaire, City of Tigard:

https://agency.governmentjobs.com/tigard/job_bulletin.cfm?jobID=1465633