

Civil Engineer interview checklist

Construction companies usually hold a technical interview with a project manager or senior engineer, sometimes a written aptitude or technical test for freshers, then an HR discussion on salary and site posting.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. Why is curing of concrete important, and how do you do it on site?

What it checks: Whether you understand hydration and the practical curing methods that protect strength and durability, a basic site engineer question.

2. Tell me about a time concrete cube results failed. What did you do?

What it checks: Whether you respond to quality failures methodically, involve the right people, and base decisions on tests rather than guesses.

3. Are you willing to be posted at remote project sites?

What it checks: Whether you accept the reality of site postings and can stay committed to a project until completion.

4. How do you perform a slump test, and what do the results tell you?

What it checks: Whether you know the standard procedure for checking workability of fresh concrete and can interpret the types of slump.

5. Describe a time your project fell behind schedule and how you recovered it.

What it checks: Whether you can analyse causes of delay, re-plan the critical activities and communicate honestly with the client.

6. Why do you want to join our construction company?

What it checks: Whether you know the kind of projects the company builds and can connect them to your experience and goals.

7. How do you prepare a bar bending schedule?

What it checks: Whether you can read structural drawings and calculate cutting lengths and steel quantities correctly, which directly affects cost and site progress.

8. Tell me about a conflict with a subcontractor or labour team on site.

What it checks: Whether you can handle people on site firmly and fairly, keeping work moving without damaging relationships.

9. What salary do you expect as a site engineer?

What it checks: Whether your expectation is reasonable for your experience and whether you understand site allowances and accommodation.

10. How is the compressive strength of concrete tested, and what does M25 mean?

What it checks: Whether you understand concrete grades and how quality is verified through cube testing on site.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Revise concrete technology, reinforcement detailing, foundations and estimation from your degree, because technical rounds for site roles return to these basics again and again.

- Practise a bar bending schedule and a small BOQ calculation on paper, including bend deductions and steel weight per metre.
- For each project on your CV, know the structure type, number of floors, concrete grades, your exact responsibilities and one problem you solved.
- Learn the site tools you claim: AutoCAD, MS Project or Primavera, and Excel for billing and reconciliation, as interviewers may ask practical questions.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave