

Audiovisual Technician interview questions

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What to expect

Audiovisual technician interviews blend technical knowledge with practical problem-solving and client-facing skills. Employers want to know you can handle equipment, stay calm under pressure and communicate clearly with non-technical people.

- **Technical and tool-based:** Questions about specific equipment, software and your hands-on workflow for setting up, operating and maintaining AV systems.
- **Scenario and problem-solving:** Hypothetical situations that test your judgement when something goes wrong under time pressure, such as equipment failure or last-minute changes.
- **Behavioural and client-facing:** Past examples of working with clients, performers or venue staff, and how you handle communication, teamwork and service expectations.
- **Safety and process:** Questions about workplace health and safety, risk assessment, cable management and rigging procedures in public venues.

The interview typically starts with a phone or video screen covering your background and availability. A second round may be in person or at a venue, where you might be asked to demonstrate a setup or troubleshoot a fault. You may also meet a supervisor or client-facing team member. Expect questions about your experience with specific equipment, your approach to tight deadlines and how you handle last-minute changes.

1. Walk me through your process for setting up a sound system for a live event, from receiving the specifications to the sound check.

Why they ask

This tests your technical workflow, attention to detail and ability to work to a schedule.

How to structure your answer

A process walk-through: outline the steps in order, mention key checks and how you confirm everything works before the event.

Example answer

"First, I review the technical rider or client brief to understand the channel list, speaker placement and power requirements. I then prepare the equipment, checking cables, connectors and mixing desk functionality. On site, I run cables safely, set up speakers and monitors, and connect the desk to the stage boxes. I do a line check with each microphone and instrument, adjust gain and EQ for clarity, and then run a full sound check with the performers. I always leave time to troubleshoot any issues and confirm with the event manager that the system is ready."

2. Tell me about a time you had to troubleshoot an AV issue under time pressure. What did you do?

Why they ask

This reveals your problem-solving under stress and your ability to stay calm when things go wrong.

How to structure your answer

STAR: describe the situation, the task, the action you took and the result. Focus on your diagnostic steps and the outcome.

Example answer

"During a live corporate awards night, the main projector lost signal just as the CEO was about to present. I quickly checked the source laptop and cable, then realised the issue was a faulty HDMI port. I swapped to the backup input on the projector and re-routed the signal through a different cable."

The presentation resumed in under two minutes. Afterwards, I labelled and tested all backup cables so we would not have the same problem again."

3. You arrive at a venue and discover the projector does not support the client's laptop resolution. The event starts in 30 minutes. What do you do?

Why they ask

This assesses your judgement, resourcefulness and ability to communicate with clients under pressure.

How to structure your answer

A judgement-under-pressure structure: identify the problem, consider your options, choose the best one and explain how you would keep the client informed.

Example answer

"I would first confirm the laptop's resolution and try adjusting the display settings to a compatible mode. If that fails, I would check if the projector has a scaling option or if I can use a different input. If neither works, I would look for a spare projector or a media player that can handle the file. If I had to make a temporary fix, I would tell the client immediately, explain the limitation and suggest using a lower resolution for the presentation. I would also note the issue for future setups."

4. How do you handle a client who changes their requirements at the last minute?

Why they ask

This shows your customer service, flexibility and stakeholder management skills.

How to structure your answer

A communication and problem-solving structure: acknowledge the request, assess feasibility, propose solutions and confirm agreement.

Example answer

"I would listen to the client's new requirements and ask clarifying questions to understand what they need. Then I would quickly assess what is possible with the available equipment and time. If it is feasible, I would adjust the setup and keep them updated. If it is not, I would explain the constraints and offer alternative options that achieve a similar result. I would confirm the changes in writing if possible and make sure the event still runs smoothly."

5. What safety checks do you perform before rigging equipment or running cables in a public venue?

Why they ask

This confirms you know workplace health and safety requirements and can protect yourself, your team and the public.

How to structure your answer

A list and explain structure: cover key safety areas such as risk assessment, cable management, rigging and electrical safety.

Example answer

"Before rigging, I check that the venue's rigging points are rated and that I have the correct hardware. I inspect all cables for damage and make sure they are tested and tagged where required. I run cables in safe zones, using ramps or tape to avoid trip hazards. I also check that power outlets are not overloaded and that any elevated equipment is secured. I complete a risk assessment and discuss any concerns with the venue manager before starting work."

6. Describe your experience with QLab or Dante Controller. How have you used them in a live setting?

Why they ask

This ensures you can handle the specific software and audio networking tools common in Australian venues.

How to structure your answer

A technical demonstration structure: name the tool, explain what you used it for, and give a specific example of a task you completed.

Example answer

"I have used QLab to run audio and video cues for theatre productions. For one show, I programmed multiple cues for sound effects and backing tracks, then ran them from the cue list during performances. I also set up fade times and levels to match the director's notes. With Dante Controller, I have routed audio between a mixing desk and a digital stage box over a network, which reduced cable runs and improved signal quality. I regularly check clock sync and device names to avoid routing errors."