

Electrician interview questions

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What to expect

Electrician interviews mix practical trade knowledge with safety compliance and real-world problem solving. Employers want to see that you can be trusted on-site unsupervised, follow the wiring rules without cutting corners, and handle the pressure of emergency callouts.

- **Technical:** Questions on wiring standards, circuit theory and interpreting plans to check depth of trade knowledge.
- **Scenario:** Hypothetical fault-finding or safety situations to test judgement under pressure.
- **Behavioural:** Past-experience questions about teamwork, mistakes and handling difficult jobs, usually answered with STAR.
- **Safety:** Direct questions on WHS practice and compliance history, since safety record matters heavily in trades hiring.

Expect a short intro about the business and role, then a run of technical and scenario questions from the supervisor or licensed electrician on the panel, followed by behavioural questions from HR or the hiring manager, and time at the end for you to ask about the tools, vehicle, and typical job mix.

1. Walk me through how you'd diagnose a power failure in a home with no obvious tripped breaker.

Why they ask

Tests systematic fault-finding method and equipment knowledge rather than guesswork.

How to structure your answer

Process walk-through: state the starting checks, the order of testing, the tools used at each step, and how you'd confirm the fix before leaving site.

Example answer

"I'd start by checking the switchboard for any breakers that look tripped but haven't fully reset, then use a voltage tester to confirm supply at the main. If the board's fine, I'd work outward, checking outlets and switches on the affected circuit with a multimeter to find where continuity drops. Once I isolate the fault, I'd test the fix under load before signing off, and note it on the job sheet in case it recurs."

2. Tell me about a time you found a safety issue on-site that others had missed.

Why they ask

Assesses attention to detail and willingness to flag problems rather than ignore them.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a renovation job, I noticed the existing switchboard had no RCD protection on several circuits, which the previous trade hadn't flagged. My task was to bring the job up to current standards before continuing my work. I raised it with the site supervisor and client, explained the risk, and quoted the upgrade separately. They approved it, I installed RCDs across all required circuits, and the property passed inspection without any follow-up issues."

3. A client insists a job is urgent but you've identified a wiring fault that needs further investigation before you can safely proceed. How do you

handle it?

Why they ask

Tests judgement under pressure and willingness to prioritise safety over client pressure or deadlines.

How to structure your answer

Judgement-under-pressure: describe the competing pressures, the decision you'd make, and how you'd communicate it.

Example answer

"I'd explain to the client clearly why I can't proceed until the fault is properly assessed, framing it around their safety rather than just compliance. I'd offer a realistic timeframe for further testing and, where possible, a temporary safe workaround. I won't sign off on work I haven't properly verified, even under time pressure, because the risk to the client and to my licence isn't worth it."

4. What's your understanding of the current AS/NZS 3000 wiring rules and how do you keep up with changes?

Why they ask

Confirms genuine trade knowledge and ongoing compliance rather than relying on outdated training.

How to structure your answer

Direct technical answer: state your current knowledge, then how you maintain it.

Example answer

"I work to AS/NZS 3000 for general wiring and cross-check against manufacturer specs for anything non-standard. I keep current through my licence renewal requirements, toolbox talks on-site, and checking updates from my state regulator when standards are revised, so I'm not relying on what I learned during my apprenticeship alone."

5. Describe a time you had to work as part of a team with other trades on a build.

Why they ask

Checks ability to coordinate on multi-trade sites, common in construction and commercial jobs.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result.

Example answer

"On a commercial fit-out, my rough-in work overlapped with the plumber and the shopfitter in a tight roof space. My task was to get first fix done without holding up the other trades. I coordinated timing with the site supervisor each morning and adjusted my sequence around their access needs. We finished rough-in on schedule with no rework needed once the ceiling went in."

6. How do you approach a preventive maintenance inspection versus a fault callout?

Why they ask

Distinguishes routine, methodical process work from reactive troubleshooting, both core parts of the role.

How to structure your answer

Process walk-through: outline the checklist approach for maintenance versus the triage approach for a callout.

Example answer

"For preventive maintenance, I work through a checklist covering switchboard condition, insulation resistance, RCD testing and visible wear, documenting everything for the client's records. For a

callout, I triage first: confirm the fault reported, check for immediate safety risks like exposed wiring, then move into targeted testing. The mindset's different, maintenance is about catching problems early, callouts are about restoring safety and supply as quickly as possible without missing anything."