

Wind Turbine Technician interview questions

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What to expect

Interviews for Wind Turbine Technician roles focus heavily on safety discipline and practical fault-finding ability, since the job involves working at height in remote sites where poor judgement has real consequences. Expect a mix of process questions about maintenance routines, scenario questions testing diagnostic judgement, and behavioural questions about handling pressure and coordinating with site supervisors.

- **Safety:** Questions checking your understanding of climbing procedures, harness use, and site safety protocols before and during turbine access.
- **Technical/process:** Questions on how you carry out specific maintenance tasks, such as hydraulic system checks or electrical testing.
- **Scenario/judgement:** Hypothetical fault situations testing how you'd diagnose and respond when the cause isn't obvious.
- **Behavioural:** Past-experience questions about pressure, teamwork with supervisors, and decision-making in the field.

Most processes start with a phone or video screen covering licences, tickets and physical fitness for climbing, followed by an in-person or site interview with a maintenance supervisor. Some employers include a practical or medical assessment (heights, confined space, sometimes a climb test) either before or after the interview, since GWO and working-at-heights certification are usually mandatory before you're rostered onto a turbine.

1. Walk me through your pre-climb safety check process before ascending a turbine tower.

Why they ask

Safety discipline is the first thing assessed for this role, since technicians work unsupervised at height in remote locations.

How to structure your answer

Walk-through: describe the check in the actual order you'd perform it, from ground-level equipment inspection through to final harness and rescue-kit checks before climbing.

Example answer

"I start by checking weather conditions against site limits, since wind speed and lightning risk can rule out a climb entirely. Then I inspect my harness, lanyards and helmet for wear or damage, and confirm my rescue kit is with me and in date. I log in with the site supervisor or control room so someone knows I'm going up and for how long, and I do a final buddy check on my PPE before clipping onto the climb-assist system. If anything fails a check, I don't climb until it's resolved."

2. A SCADA alert flags a fault on a turbine but there's no obvious cause when you inspect it. How would you approach diagnosing it?

Why they ask

Tests root-cause diagnostic judgement, a core part of the role beyond routine maintenance.

How to structure your answer

Judgement-under-pressure: explain how you'd narrow down the cause systematically, what tools you'd use, and when you'd escalate rather than guess.

Example answer

"I'd start by pulling the fault history and SCADA data to see if the alert correlates with a specific system, like pitch control or the gearbox, rather than assuming it's random. I'd use a multimeter to test the relevant circuits and a thermal imaging camera to check for overheating components that wouldn't show up visually. If the fault clears on reset but recurs, I treat that as a real intermittent issue rather than a false alarm and keep testing rather than signing it off. If I can't isolate it within a reasonable time, I'd document what I've ruled out and escalate to the site supervisor rather than restart the turbine on a guess."

3. Tell me about a time you had to complete a repair under time pressure, for example due to weather closing in.

Why they ask

Weather and remote-site logistics affect turbine work, so employers want evidence you can work efficiently without cutting safety corners.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result, focused on how you balanced speed against safety.

Example answer

"On one job a generator component needed replacing and the wind forecast showed conditions were going to exceed our climb limit within a couple of hours. My task was to get the component swapped and the turbine tested before we lost the weather window. I prioritised the sequence of steps, had tools and the replacement part staged before climbing, and worked through the swap methodically rather than rushing any single step. We completed the replacement and ran the diagnostic checks with time to get down safely before the wind picked up, and the turbine was back in service without needing a second trip."

4. How do you manage fatigue and decision-making on long shifts involving multiple climbs in poor weather?

Why they ask

Physical and mental capability under adverse conditions is a genuine risk factor in this job, not just a box-ticking question.

How to structure your answer

Scenario reflection: describe your personal routine or approach, referencing a specific situation where fatigue or conditions tested your judgement.

Example answer

"I pace my climbs and take proper breaks between towers rather than pushing through, because fatigue is when mistakes happen at height. On a day with several scheduled maintenance climbs in cold, windy conditions, I flagged to my supervisor that the last climb should be deferred once visibility dropped, rather than trying to squeeze it in. Being upfront about that call mattered more to me than finishing the full list that day."

5. Describe your experience testing and maintaining hydraulic systems and pitch control mechanisms.

Why they ask

Direct technical competency check against one of the core maintenance tasks in the role.

How to structure your answer

Technical explanation: outline your practical experience, the tools involved, and a specific example of a fault or service you've handled.

Example answer

"I've carried out routine hydraulic pressure checks using a hydraulic pressure gauge as part of scheduled maintenance, looking for pressure drops that indicate seal wear or fluid leaks. On pitch

control systems, I've tested actuator response and replaced worn components when blade pitch wasn't tracking commands correctly. I always cross-check readings against the manufacturer's service manual rather than relying on memory, since tolerances vary between turbine models."

6. Tell me about a time you worked closely with a site supervisor to minimise turbine downtime.

Why they ask

Coordination with supervisors and clear reporting is central to how maintenance teams operate across a wind farm.

How to structure your answer

STAR: situation, task, action, result, with emphasis on communication rather than just the technical fix.

Example answer

"A turbine went offline overnight on a fault alert, and my task the next morning was to get it running again with minimal disruption to the site's generation targets. I called the supervisor before climbing to walk through the fault history and agree on a diagnostic plan, then kept them updated by radio at each stage of testing. Once I isolated the issue to a sensor fault and replaced it, I confirmed the fix with the supervisor before signing off, so the turbine was back online and logged correctly in the asset system without any confusion over what had been done."