QC Audits Simplified – Associate Version

QC analysts will be assessing responses on:

- -correctness
- -comprehensiveness
- -clarity
- -Use of terminology
- -soft skills (confidence, body language, attitude)

A good answer tells the QC analyst the:

- -what?
- -why?
- -how?
- -gives examples
- -includes other relevant topics from training

Remember, a good answer includes appropriate terminology which needs to be used correctly. Associates should be ready to be asked about terminology included in their answers if they are not explained. This is an opportunity for associates to show their mastery of the topic.

Questions:

Questions are starting points for you to demonstrate your understanding of the topic you are being asked about. Regardless of a question's phrasing, you are encouraged to give a robust answer. An answer should be more like a paragraph than a sentence and should include topics/subtopics that are relevant and related to the original question.

Follow-up questions related to the topic of the original question will often be asked to help you get to the important details needed to fully answer the question; however, it is preferable for an associate's answer to be comprehensive enough that few, if any, follow ups are needed before moving on to a new topic.

The number of main questions, or topics, that an associate is asked will depend on the completeness, length, and quality of their responses. One associate might be asked two, while another might be asked three or four.

Answers:

During the QC orientation, the idea of having layers of knowledge was introduced as well as answering in paragraphs instead of sentences. Consider this question,

<div align="center">What is an int?</div>

1. Can you define it simply?
2. Can you expand on the definition and explain in more detail?
3. Do you know why it is important/necessary/beneficial/etc.?
4. Can you describe how you would implement it in your code?
5. Have you come up with your own examples? Do you have extra pertinent information to add?

If you can answer yes to all these questions, then you should be able to come up with a quality answer about this topic regardless of the question's phrasing.

For example,

"(1) In Java, an int is one of the eight primitive data types. (2) An int holds integer values which can also be described as whole numbers. This includes zero. Also, the whole numbers can be positive or negative. In Java, an int is 4 bytes so the largest number an int can be is the low two billions. 2.1 something. I forget the exact value. The smallest is nearly the same as the largest, but negative. (3) Ints are important because, as being a primitive type suggests, they are used a lot in programming. (4) They are often used as a "literal" where we type the number into an expression like x + 2. 2 is the literal. The x would be a variable that might store an int. We would write that like "int x = 4;". (5) An interesting feature of ints has to do with division. When we divide two numbers, for example, 7 / 2, we don't get 3.5 as expected because 3.5 is not a whole number, so its not an int. Instead, we get 3. Integer division is basically floor division meaning that we don't round. We truncate the quotient, or cut off the remainder/fraction, and we are left with just 3."

You should be able to see that the 5 layers mentioned previously were included in the example answer. Also, this should demonstrate what is meant by "Your answer should be more like a paragraph than a sentence."

Tips:

- You want to come across as confident in your knowledge of the topics. So, try to avoid unconfident language such as "I think…", "I believe…", "maybe it is…".
- Prepare. Write out answers that you think you may be asked. Practice! Answer the questions out loud.
- Find a partner and ask each other questions.
- Too many "Uhs", "Ums", and long pauses should be avoided. Practice should help minimizing them.
- Don't think of QC (or interviews for that matter) as tests. They are opportunities for you to demonstrate how much you know!