QA Interview Questions with Answers

1. Basic QA Concepts

Q: What is the difference between SDLC and STLC?

A: SDLC covers the entire software development process; STLC focuses only on the testing phase.

Q: What is the difference between verification and validation?

A: Verification checks if the product is built correctly; validation checks if the right product is built.

Q: What are severity and priority in bug tracking?

A: Severity is the impact of the defect; priority is the urgency to fix it.

Q: Explain the difference between functional and non-functional testing.

A: Functional testing checks what the system does; non-functional testing checks how it performs.

Q: What is exploratory testing?

A: Testing without predefined test cases, relying on tester creativity and intuition.

Q: What is regression testing and when is it performed?

A: Testing to confirm existing functionality still works after changes.

Q: What is smoke testing vs sanity testing?

A: Smoke: basic checks on major features; Sanity: focused checks after minor fixes.

2. Test Cases & Testing Process

Q: How do you write a good test case? Can you give an example?

A: A good test case has clear steps, expected results, and valid data. Example: Login with valid credentials.

Q: What is a test plan and what does it include?

A: A document outlining scope, objectives, schedule, and resources for testing.

Q: How do you ensure test coverage?

A: By mapping test cases to requirements using RTM.

Q: What is the Requirement Traceability Matrix (RTM)?

A: A document linking requirements to test cases to ensure coverage.

Q: How do you handle incomplete or unclear requirements?

A: Clarify with stakeholders or BA, raise a query, and document assumptions.

Q: How do you log a bug in a bug tracking system like JIRA?

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A: Include steps to reproduce, expected vs actual results, screenshots, and severity/priority.

3. Tools & Frameworks

Q: Have you used JIRA/TestRail/ALM? For what purpose?

A: Yes, for test management, bug tracking, and reporting.

Q: Have you worked with any test management tools?

A: Yes, tools like TestRail or Zephyr for test case organization and execution.

Q: What automation tools have you worked with (e.g., Selenium, Postman, JMeter)?

A: Selenium for UI automation, Postman for API testing, JMeter for performance.

Q: Explain the testing lifecycle in your last project.

A: Requirement analysis Planning Test case writing Execution Bug reporting Closure.

4. Real-World Scenario-Based

Q: What would you do if a developer rejects your bug saying 'its not a bug'?

A: Provide evidence like logs or videos, discuss the impact, and involve BA if needed.

Q: How would you test a login page? What test cases will you write?

A: Valid/invalid credentials, empty fields, password masking, SQL injection, etc.

Q: How do you test an e-commerce shopping cart?

A: Add/remove items, update quantity, price calculation, UI validations, responsiveness.

Q: A feature was changed late in the sprint. How do you handle testing?

A: Prioritize critical tests, perform risk-based and exploratory testing.

5. Basic Automation (if applicable)

Q: Have you created or executed automated scripts?

A: Yes, for regression and repetitive test cases using Selenium/WebDriver.

Q: What is Selenium? What are locators in Selenium?

A: Selenium is a web automation tool; locators identify elements (id, name, xpath, etc.).

Q: Difference between assert and verify in automation?

A: Assert stops execution on failure; verify logs the failure but continues.

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Q: How do you handle dynamic elements in automation?

A: Use dynamic XPath, CSS selectors, or wait mechanisms.

6. API & Performance (Beginner-Level)

Q: What is an API and how do you test it?

A: An interface for software interaction. Use tools like Postman for requests and validations.

Q: Have you used tools like Postman or SoapUI?

A: Yes, for API testing by sending requests, asserting responses, and chaining tests.

Q: What is performance testing?

A: Testing system behavior under load, measuring speed, stability, and scalability.

Q: Do you know any tools like JMeter or k6?

A: Yes, used for simulating virtual users and analyzing system response time.

7. Behavioral / Soft Skills

Q: Tell me about a challenging bug you found.

A: Describe a high-impact bug, how it was found, and the resolution process.

Q: How do you prioritize your testing tasks?

A: Based on risk, business impact, deadlines, and dependencies.

Q: How do you collaborate with developers or business analysts?

A: Regular stand-ups, clear communication, shared documentation, and tools like JIRA/Confluence.

Q: Why do you want to work as a QA?

A: Passion for quality, attention to detail, and interest in improving user experience.