

Tester interview questions and answers are completely based on the interview I and my friends attended during last years of working experience as Quality Assurance Testers. These SQA questions and scenarios are based only on real experience and were asked during actual QA interviews. Therefore, QA Tester who is looking for a Quality Assurance job will greatly benefit from this. If you are the first time job seeker as a QA Tester, then it can help you even better. Finally, if you are plant to attend an interview, you have to know these questions and answers by heart and must be very smooth in answering these questions. Practice in front of the friends or just a mirror, speak loud and clear. Most of the time, when you study the questions, you feel fine and feel relaxed, but the reality is, at the time of the actual interview, even though you feel you have the knowledge, cannot express it well. It may sound a little rough, but this is everyone's hard experience. When you come out the interview door, you are deeply regretted. If you cannot remember these by heart, believe me, it may not work. Readers are welcome to post own questions and answers to the following SQA interview questions.

SQA interview question 1 - Can you tell me about yourself?

In my QA Tester career, I have been working on a variety of system platforms and operating systems like Windows 95, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Windows 7, Redhat Linux and Solaris UNIX. I have carefully tested client server applications and web-based applications (IIS, Apache, Tomcat, Weblogic) developed in Visual Basic, C++, Perl, Java, PHP, SQL and many others computer languages.

As a detail oriented QA Tester, I successfully developed test plans, test cases, test scripts, traceability matrices and attended zillion meetings with the Business Analysts, Project Managers, Business Managers, Software Developers and QA Leads. As far as different types of testing, I have successfully performed and lead others to perform Smoke Testing, Functional Testing, Backend Testing, Black Box Testing, White Box Testing, Integration Testing, Regression Testing, Load Testing and Stress Testing, constantly documenting and sharing knowledge about test projects with team members.

I have discovered bugs manually and with test automation tools like SilkTest, HP QTP and Selenium and immediately reported bugs to software developer using Bugzilla, Trac and Jira.

As QA Tester, I continue to acquire and enhance technical and non-technical skills by closely working with peers and using any available opportunities for that. I continue to be on the lookout for training opportunities, and I always he find effective ways to employ those new skills in my work.

This is pretty much what I have been doing as a QA Tester in the past years.

SQA interview question 2 - What did you do as QA Tester in your last project?

In my last project, the application was a web-based application developed on Java EE platform with MS SQL server as backend. As a QA Tester, I developed test plans from the requirement documents and use cases. I performed various types of testing like Smoke Testing, Functional Testing, Backend Testing, Black Box Testing, Integration Testing and Regression Testing. I participated in the several walkthrough meetings for requirement reviews and provided valuable feedback to the Business Analysts. Most of my time, I spent on the backend testing, which required developing and executing SQL queries in MS SQL database. Besides these activities, I submitted bug reports using Atlassian Jira. Once the bug reports were fixed by software developers, I verified the fix and if it passed, closed them. If the defects were not fixed, I reopened them.

SQA interview question 3 - What is the process of QA testing in the company where you worked for the last time?

The QA testing process that was successfully followed in the company where I have worked was as follows:

The extensive business requirement document has been prepared by business analysts based on the tricky client requirements. Based on business requirement document, software developers started to create software specifications and code the applications in Java and SQL, committing the code to SVN (Subversion). In the same time QA team members including QA Testers and QA Engineers followed our test strategy and developed test plan with test cases utilizing on software requirements and specifications. As soon as developers finished coding, the build and release team compiled code and prepared build with a help of continuous integration process and Hudson. The software build has been deployed to diverse testing environments (Weblogic, MS SQL) where different types of testing have been performed by QA testers. QA Engineers used test automation tools like Selenium and soon as issues were found QA Testers would log the defect to Jira. These process have been repeated till production release.

SQA interview question 4 - How do you figure out what to test in an application?

QA Tester has the test plan, test cases that are developed based on the requirement and specification documents. The test cases pretty much cover what functionalities to verify in the application under test.

SQA interview question 5 - How does a good QA resume sample look like?

There are two types of QA Tester resume sample. If you applying through an agency or posting your SQA resume on sites like LinkedIn.com, Monster.com, Naukri.com or Dice.com, you would need the buzzwords and technologies just appears in the search result. In case you applying directly to the employer you need the QA resume that sell you.

For SQA resume sample, you should have the list of technologies you are familiar with like SQL, XML, PHP, Java EE, .Net, Unix, Linux and Windows. In addition to these, QA Engineer would need to include in the resume various testing tools like Selenium, LoadRunner, QuickTest Pro, SilkTest, Jira, BugZilla, TestDirector. Next step would be to mention all of test buzz words you are familiar with glass box testing, white box testing, gray box testing, black box testing, performance testing, stress testing, load testing, functional testing, integration testing, sanity testing, smoke testing, regression testing, manual testing, automated testing, user acceptance testing, user acceptance testing and so on. Last things is to mention the familiarity with test plans and test cases.

SQA interview question 6 - Give an example of test plan template?

As defined in IEEE 829-1998, also known as the 829 Standard for software test documentation, test plan is a management planning document describing the scope, approach, resources, and schedule of intended testing activities. Test plan identifies test items, the features to be tested, the testing tasks, who will do each task (roles and responsibilities), and any risks requiring contingency planning.

A sample Test Plan document usually includes test plan identifier, introduction, test items, features to be tested, features not to be tested, approach, item pass/fail criteria, suspension criteria and resumption requirements, test deliverables, testing tasks, environmental needs, responsibilities, staffing and training needs, schedule, risks and contingencies, approvals.

SQA interview question 7 - Give an example of test case template?

A Test Case is particular set of steps and data along with anticipated results for a specific test objective. Ideally test case should only check one limited subset of a feature or functionality. A Test Case template generally consists of Test Case ID, Prerequisites, Steps Description, Expected Output, Actual Output, Pass/Fail, and Comments.

SQA interview question 8 - What is Test Strategy?

Test Strategy is a document that describes the testing objective, test efforts, test configuration, testing tools like SilkTest, QTP or Selenium, testing environment, different types of testing like functional testing, regression testing, load test, performance testing and system requirement. Test Strategy is created to inform business analysts, project managers, QA testers, and software developers about key issues of the testing process. Usually QA Manager or QA Lead develops a Test Strategy, but in some companies Senior QA Testers could also participate in the creation of Test Strategy template.

SQA interview question 9 - What is the best strategy for API testing?

The easiest approach for API (Application Programming Interface) testing is to develop based on API documentation the collection of software functions and procedures, called API calls, run a suite of API

calls and check the results. A high level strategy for API Testing would be Equivalence Class Partitioning method. This method helps QA Tester to derive test cases by identifying the classes of input or output conditions. The rule of thumb is that each member in the class causes the same kind of behavior of the application under test. The Equivalence partitioning approach creates sets of inputs or outputs that are handled in the same way by the application. In other words, QA Tester can construct a set of input arguments and for each one determine, what the expected return value should be. For inexperienced tester equivalence partitioning looks like boundary condition testing, but there is a difference and can be used together. To identify test the classes for API testing QA Tester could use arguments type, for example boolean, numeric or text string.

Java interview questions for QA Tester

Usually QA Manager is very clear about what type of software tester the employer is looking for, but this is not a case for Java Software Tester position. Let's take a look at QA Tester's job market. I dug through the job requirements for Quality Assurance Engineers posted on craigslist and in my opinion Savvy QA tester could easily distinguish between Java oriented and Testing oriented position.

One set of job requirements target Java coding skills

Superior skills in test automation for web applications, including ability to code in Ruby, Python or Java

Strong in at least one OOP and one scripting language - Java, C++ and PHP preferred

QA Team has an immediate need for a proficient and successful White-Box Test Engineer. The ideal candidate would be very comfortable with defining tests and required test data, coding tests in Java in Eclipse, and authoritative in their knowledge of black, grey, and white box test methodologies.

Strong QA testing experience with emphasis on Grey Box level testing

Experience in Unit, Integration and Automated test development

Hands on experience with open-source test tools like Selenium, JUnit, HTTPUnit, JMeter, etc.

Execute Web Application and API based test cases manually

Automate GUI and backend tests using Selenium (JAVA/JUNIT) and Perl/Python

As result QA Engineer should expect the questions during an interview about unit testing and unit testing frameworks like JUnit or testNG, Continuous Integration tools like Hudson or CruiseControl, Test Driven Development, source code repositories SVN or Git, code coverage tools like Checkstyle, PMD, Findbugs, Cobertura.

Another set of job requirements for Java QA Tester target testing skills

Functional manual/automated ("black box") testing of features which includes writing a detailed testing plan and testing cases to cover product features.

Experience with Java, SQL, Selenium and JUnit.

Hands-on experience with both grey box, and black box testing

Great to have programming experience, especially Java, but C, C++, Ruby, HTML, CSS are also good

Experience writing/reading/debugging Java

Deep understanding of web application development and open-source web technologies (Java and MySQL in particular). Comfort with Linux/Unix based development.

For positions with the emphasis to testing, QA Tester has to prepare for interview questions about tools for role of testing in software development cycle, role of a tester on development team, when testing is enough, what is quality and testing, bug tracking Bugzilla or Jira, definitions for test plan, test case and bug, explain black box testing and white box testing?.

When did you test last time?

The purpose of this interview question for test manager is to figure out how QA manager understands what QA Testers are doing. Usually Test Manager prefers to delegate testing responsibilities and focus on the big picture instead. It is explainable, because in the recent years managers responsibility has grown, test manager may have had less and less time to do the actual testing. A primary QA manager responsibility is to let QA Engineers work smoothly. In order to do that, the manager could try jumping into the testing, trying to backup testers who got sick or on vacation. Sometimes it helps, the manager could discover that there is real test impediments to complete the work on time, tester misunderstood the application, poorly designed test cases, wrongly estimated the time required for testing. The question is why Test Manager hasn't noticed these issues before personally performing test activities of testing team. Instead of jumping back and out into the actual testing, Test manager should consider other ways to get similar insight into testers work. For example, Test Manager could have more discussion with testers during one-on-one or team meetings, create performance metric, audit test results, try to pair with QA testers, drop in during testing, debrief actively and even supervise testers closely from time to time.

What do QA Testers do?

What do QA testers do within company and how do Test Engineers fit into business, development and release processes? It may sound like a tricky tester interview question, but the answer will play a crucial role in whether or not QA Tester are hired. The developers usually think that testers job is straightforward and simple: testers have to annoy developers and break the applications. The developers also think that good testers is the one who can find a bugs, who can think like end user, but is it really true? The good tester is the one who can prevent a bugs and can think as business analysts, software architect, CEO, end user, network engineer and average user.

QA Tester should participate in the following tasks: develop a test strategy and test plan according to the functional specification of the product or even without specifications, prevent and find bugs in the product, test the application and report issues back to management and developers and finally sign up the application for production.

In general the process may look like this. When the business analysts team feels that the requirements specifications are complete, it is given to the QA Testers team so they can review them and start working on test plans. In the same time they could review requirements and suggest some improvements. As soon as according to the project plan the developers have software specifications and a relatively stable application, it should be deployed and QA team can start working with the application, start finding and reporting bugs. After that developers will work on resolving issues and providing a new software build, while QA would verify that bugs are fixed or will be postponed for the future releases. Finally QA team will sign the project for the production release.

Depending of organization a tester's role tends to vary slightly with the nature of the software development process adopted. The waterfall projects tend to involve QA testers developing test plans, designing test cases and clarifying requirements during that process, executing them manually or with test automation tools. The agile projects are increasingly causing a mix between the responsibilities of QA Engineer and software developer, emphasizing testing from the perspective of customers who will utilize the system. Agile Testing focuses on testing iteratively against newly developed code until quality is achieved from an end customer's perspective. In other words, the emphasis is shifted from testers to something more like entire project team working toward demonstrable quality.

Programming language skills and QA testers?

Programming language skills are not mandatory for manual QA Testers, but the knowledge of programming or scripting languages can give an additional advantage in hiring process. In general having some knowledge about the language used to build the product you test might help to understand the potential weaknesses of that application and guess the source of the bug. It could be beneficial for QA tester to have code understanding of programming languages like Java or C# and ability to develop simple application using it. Knowledge of scripting languages like various Unix shells or Perl might substantially help QA Tester with some repeatable or boring routine tasks. Quality Assurance Engineers could be involved in writing automation scripts use tools like Selenium, HP QTP or SilkTest. If a tester has prior knowledge of programming languages, then the QA tester will be able to develop or optimize these scripts in a better way.

How would you test a vending machine?

How would you test a vending machine, a toaster, an alarm clock, an electric kettle, an elevator, a pen, a keyboard or ATM machine? A few SQA managers consider this most common interview question as

perfect QA interview question. In the same time this test interview question is the easiest one for an seasoned tester. SQA engineer needs to remember two magic words "requirements" and "specifications" and then approach toaster, vending machine, alarm clock, electric kettle, elevator, pen, keyboard or ATM machine tests as any other usual application under test with different testing types like functionality testing, usability, white box testing, black box testing, performance testing, load testing and so on.

How to become a better Software QA Tester?

Usually software QA testers get involved in the never ending routine of testing of the same functionality of the same software application for a very long time. How should QA Tester adjust working behavior to continue successful work on the software project and become a better SQA Tester? The time is passing quickly and QA Engineer may develop new skills in the reactive way, but what if you want to improve yourself and your career faster. One of the approaches is to take advantage of variation, for example stop testing the same features, by means of the same methods. How about trying a new techniques to check the application. Learning the scripting languages like Perl, Python, Ruby and applying the knowledge in testing will reduce boring and repetitive tasks. Make an ongoing personal goal to learn as much as you could about software engineering that will make your job interesting, make the team stronger and help the company testing efforts go further. There are numerous QA books and QA blogs and QA communities out there, not to mention whatever is accessible locally in your local area. Read at least one testing book per quarter, follow QA blogs, attend meeting and apply new QA techniques to your ongoing projects. How about you? What do you do to become a better software QA tester and improve your testing skills?

Would you hire an unskilled software QA Tester?

I just chatted with my old coworker who said his QA manager is planning about hiring QA Engineers for a few open positions. QA manager wants to try hiring cheap and not very qualified, just out of high school, testers. This may sound odd, but without knowing more about the company, and what this manager expects from the new QA testers, no one knows if the approach is a awful idea or a brilliant one. Once we were able to hire as QA Testers a few college interns, but our manager mixed them with a several experienced engineers. From another point of view one experienced tester is many times more valuable than three unskilled QA interns, because unskilled tester lack the knowledge of Quality Assurance processes, the risk of serious bugs escaping into production is higher, and they simply might never be up to the job.

Evaluating Agile testing tool

I ask this Agile interview question to select Agile experienced QA Testers. Agile testers should definitely have an experience to use automated testing tools for regression and performance testing of each iteration, but it could be different expectation from traditional testing methods. Ideally at the end of each iteration QA team should have something that the client can check. Automated testing tools allow fast identification and isolation of software development defects as well as the ability to verify development work completed in previous iterations. When QA Team starts the search for the

automated software testing tool for Agile projects, it is crucial to create a list of testing tool requirements when choosing a tool for evaluation. The list of requirements is described below and of course, this list is not complete

support for operation systems and platforms

start testing as soon as possible

software developers and QA Engineers should develop in the same programming language

spend as least time as possible on test maintenance

the tool should provide instantaneous test results and meaningful reports

integration with bug tracking and continuous integration tools

testing tool license cost should be minimal

technical or community support

How to name QA Tester resume?

Did you know that the name of your QA Tester resume has a tremendous impact on how often you will get response on resume posted online or submitted to recruiter? Software QA Engineer may spend hour or even days looking for proper QA resume template, polishing QA cover letter and crafting resume summary, but everything could be ruined by inadequate resume name. Nowadays almost every hiring QA manager gets hundreds resume in various formats for every open software tester position, there are also plenty of resumes posted on online job boards. Let's say Quality Assurance manager is desperately searching for Selenium Tester to automate the testing highly critical software project. QA Manager could initiate the search at craigslist.org by searching by QA Engineer, QA Tester or Tester, then look for suitable candidate in the list of resumes. Most likely the manager would click on a resume with titles like QA Engineer with Selenium experience, Automation & White Box QA Engineer or QA Automation Engineer. In the same time tester's resume with spelling error like QA Engineer Selenium or Test Atomation Engineer will be skipped, because if tester is sloppy in one sentence, then the manager would suspect the tester will be slapdash in the day-to-day testing. Of course, it doesn't help to advertise the resume without a proper skills. The recruiter or manager will be incredibly exasperated to discover a manual tester resume under Automation & White Box QA Engineer title. The same tips would apply on the QA resumes in any text format sent to potential employer, but in this case you could add your name to the file name. For example I currently have a few resumes in MS Word format with the same name QA Tester Resume.doc, but it would be more helpful for me to have these files as something like QA Tester Resume John Doe.doc. Name your resume properly and you will be amazed by the improved response you get.

What is pairwise testing?

Pairwise testing or all-pairs testing is a widely popular and an efficient substitute to testing all possible combinations of a set of variables. Pairwise testing is a black box testing? technique in which test cases are designed by QA Tester to control the combinatorial explosion of independent test options.

For example, if Quality Assurance tester works on browser compatibility testing of web based application, there are could be several different software configuration, each with certain number of options. The application under test should run properly, regardless of browser types and versions, operating system types and version, but will it? If there are just five factors, each with a ten options, the tester have to deal with ten times ten times ten times ten times ten times - or 100,000 - distinct testing configurations.

Theoretically, in pairwise testing QA tester should make sure that each option is corresponded to at least one test configuration, that each possible pair of options is corresponded to at least one test configuration, and that each option and pair of options is represented about equally as a percentage of the total configurations.

There are two main models for pairwise testing. One model is called an orthogonal array table . The other model is called an all-pairs table. The tables, read row-wise, will tell the tester which particular options to include in a given test scenario. In case of the all-pairs table, the tables are created directly or in the case of the orthogonal array by mapping the test problem to be solved onto an existing table. By their nature, the tables are guaranteed to have all existing options for every factor at least once, and every pair of options across all pairs of factors. The each row in table represented in at least one test. By doing so, the tester will have tested every option for every factor at least once and every pair of options across all pairs of factors at least one time.

The bug assumption is that this level of coverage will be adequate. In other words, if there are going to be issues with options, most of those issues will happen either with a single instance of an option or with a given pair of options.

Manual Testing Interview Questions

There are many manual testing interview questions, because the manual testing is one of the most effective methods of software testing. For example how would you explain advantages of manual testing over automated testing?

There is always a time and place where manual testing is more important than automated testing. Many companies have successfully deployed software without having any test automation tools in place, as an alternative relying on the manual testing methods. In the same time doing only manual or only automated testing would not create a safety net to catch all issues, so the best approach would be to combined manual and automated testing.

The manual testing is the best when it comes to knowing is the software is understandable by a real customer. It could be enormously costly or sometimes even impossible to verify software usability using only test automation tools, but it is definitely more effective and cheaper to manually test certain features like software documentation, error messages and external services.

Manual testing could be cheaper when QA Tester needs to run test case only once or twice during current release. Also the manual testing allows the tester to perform more exploratory and ad-hoc testing. As every experienced QA Tester know more bugs are found during manual testing than during automated testing.

To summarize - automated testing is wonderful at tasks which can be repeated, manual testing is great at the hard to automate sections of the application like software usability, software documentation, and error messages.