PLEO Data Engineer Interview Guide – Experienced 2+

Round 1 – HR Discussion

Key Topics & Questions:

1. **Previous Work Experience**:

   - Discussed my past roles and projects in detail, focusing on the technologies and tools I've used.

   - Explained the challenges faced in my previous jobs and how I overcame them.

2. **Reason for Change**:

   - Provided insight into why I am looking for a change, emphasizing my desire for new challenges and opportunities for growth in data engineering.

3. **Future Rounds**:

   - The HR discussed the upcoming interview rounds, explaining the structure and key areas that would be tested (technical, managerial, and cultural fit).

Round 2 – Managerial

This round involved an interview with the manager I would potentially be working with. It had a balance of technical questions and a heavy focus on behavioral aspects.

Key Topics & Questions:

1. **Project and Team Fit**:

   - Asked about the projects I've worked on and the technologies used, with a focus on how I handle teamwork and collaborate with cross-functional teams.

   - Questions about my approach to conflict resolution and stakeholder communication in project scenarios.

2. **Behavioral Questions**:

   - Situational questions, such as:

     - Tell me about a time when you faced a tight deadline in a project, and how did you manage it?

     - Describe a time when you had to work with a difficult team member or client.

     - How do you prioritize your tasks in a multi-project environment?

3. **Managerial Questions**:

   - Inquired about my leadership experiences, whether I have led a team, and how I manage project deadlines and team performance.

Round 3 – Technical Assessment

This round was a basic technical assessment with a focus on SQL and Python.

Key Topics & Questions:

1. **SQL (Intermediate Level)**:
   - A medium-level SQL question testing knowledge on joins, aggregations, and possibly window functions. Example:
     - Write a query to find the top 3 products by sales in the last quarter from a sales table.

2. **Python (Easy to Medium Level)**:
   - An easy to medium-level Python question, likely testing familiarity with data structures and functions. Example:
     - Write a Python function to reverse a string and check for palindrome.

Round 4 – Technical

This was the **technical round** with two team members. It was a more in-depth round, focusing on **SQL**, **Python**, **Airflow**, and **BigQuery**.

Key Topics & Questions:

1. **SQL (Intermediate Level)**:
   - Advanced SQL concepts, such as CTEs, subqueries, and window functions.
   - Query optimization techniques for large datasets.
   - Scenario-based questions involving complex queries and their efficiency. Example:
     - Write a SQL query to calculate the running total of sales per region, partitioned by year.

2. **Python (Intermediate Level)**:
   - Data manipulation using Python, including using libraries like Pandas and NumPy.
   - File handling and data serialization.
   - Basic object-oriented programming (OOP) in Python, such as writing a class to represent a dataset.

3. **Airflow (Intermediate Level)**:
   - Apache Airflow concepts like DAGs, Tasks, Operators, and Scheduling.
   - Scenario: How would you design a DAG to load data from an S3 bucket to a SQL database every day at midnight?

4. **BigQuery (Intermediate Level)**:

- BigQuery SQL syntax and optimization techniques for querying large datasets.

- Partitioning and clustering tables in BigQuery to improve performance.

- Scenario-based question: How would you handle a situation where a query in BigQuery runs too slowly for a large dataset?

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https://www.glassdoor.co.in/Reviews/Pleo-Reviews-E1518165.htm

PLEO Careers –

https://www.pleo.io/en/careers

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