

Paytm Data Engineer Interview Guide – Experienced 2+

Round 1 – Technical

Topics Covered:

1. Introduction & Background Discussion

Shared my past experience and professional journey.

2. SQL Question - Inner Join with Null Handling:

Given two tables:

- Performed an Inner Join on column A and B.
- Used a Null Safe Join to handle NULL values and computed the total row count.

Sample Tables:

Table-1	Table-2
A	B
---	---
1	2
2	3
3	4
3	3
NULL	NULL
5	5
7	NULL
NULL	6

3. SQL Question - Cricket Scoreboard Table:

- Solved ad-hoc SQL queries related to a cricket scoreboard table.
- Covered aggregations, joins, and grouping scenarios.

4. DSA Questions:

- Find pairs with sum X: Given a list of numbers, find all pairs whose sum equals a given value X.
- Anagram Detection: Find all anagrams from a given list of strings.

Round 2 – Technical

Topics Covered:

1. Resume-Based Discussion:

Detailed explanation of previous projects and achievements.

2. Apache Spark Fundamentals:

Questions on Spark failures, job optimization strategies, and efficient resource utilization.

3. PySpark Coding Challenge:

Given a dataset with 4-5 columns and a problem statement, I had to:

- Write the PySpark code (on paper) to solve the data processing problem.

4. DSA Question:

Reverse a Linked List: Implemented a solution to reverse a given singly linked list.

Round 3 - Techno-Managerial

Topics Covered:

1. Architecture Discussion:

Discussed project architectures from previous experiences.

Explained design choices, challenges, and optimizations.

2. Behavioural Questions:

- Conflict Resolution: How I handled project conflicts with teammates.
- Missed Timelines: Discussed an instance of missing delivery timelines and how I:
 - Communicated with leadership and stakeholders.
 - Managed to align expectations and deliver the outcome.

3. System Design - Online Ticket Booking System:

- Designed the architecture for an Online Ticket Booking System.
- Focused on components like database schema, scalability, and API workflows.

Round 4 - HR Discussion

Topics Covered:

1. Salary Expectations: Discussed compensation and benefits.
2. Reason for Switching: Shared my reason for looking for a new opportunity.
3. Next Role Expectations: Outlined my goals for the next role and the value I can bring.

Key Learnings and Takeaways:

- SQL Skills: Strong focus on joins, null handling, and ad-hoc queries.
- DSA Proficiency: Standard problems on pairs, anagrams, and linked lists are common.
- Apache Spark: Solid understanding of failure handling, job optimization, and PySpark coding is essential.
- System Design: Real-world use cases like ticket booking systems require clarity on design principles.
- Behavioral Fit: Effective communication and conflict resolution are critical for team alignment

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