**INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

𝐈𝐧𝐭𝐞𝐫𝐯𝐢𝐞𝐰𝐞𝐫 : How would you optimize a slow-running SQL query?   
𝐂𝐚𝐧𝐝𝐢𝐝𝐚𝐭𝐞: 𝐂𝐡𝐚𝐥𝐥𝐞𝐧𝐠𝐞 𝐚𝐜𝐜𝐞𝐩𝐭𝐞𝐝, 𝐥𝐞𝐭'𝐬 𝐠𝐨!   
  
To optimize a slow-running SQL query:  
  
1. Check Indexes: Ensure that the columns used in `WHERE`, `JOIN`, and `ORDER BY` clauses have appropriate indexes.  
  
2. Analyze Query Execution Plan: Use tools like `EXPLAIN` to see how the query is executed and identify bottlenecks.  
  
3. Optimize Joins: Use appropriate join types (`INNER JOIN`, `LEFT JOIN`, etc.) and reduce the number of joins if possible.  
  
4. Filter Early: Apply filters in the `WHERE` clause as early as possible to reduce the amount of data processed.  
  
5. Limit Data: Select only the columns you need instead of using `SELECT \*` and use `LIMIT` to restrict the number of rows.  
  
6. Use Caching: Cache frequently accessed data to avoid repeated computations.  
  
These steps should help improve the query's performance.