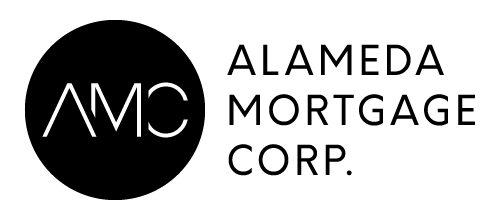
****

**1850 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Suite 100**

**Walnut Creek, CA 94596**

**Company NMLS: 271603**

**Screening Test/Interview Questions for Data Analyst (Remote) Position**

**Instructions**:​ Please precede all your answers with the question you are answering.

Use acronyms only after you've explained them.

Use correct spelling and grammar.

Be sure to write your name and the interviewer’s name.

**Interviewer’s Name**: **Ryan Milligan**

**Candidate’s Name**: **Shihao Ying**

* Are you currently employed?

Yes. Currently, I’m employed by Zendure.

* Will you be able to devote 20 to 40 hours of your time weekly for Alameda Mortgage, Corp.?

Yes, I will

* Tell us about yourself.

Dear, I’m Shihao. I’ve achieved my two master’s degrees of Finance and Information Technology Management from UT Dallas in 2018. After that, I joined Zendure, a premium power bank brand in Silicon Valley and I’m working as the Operations Analyst, Supply Chain. In the past two year, I worked with different internal partners for serval projects, including to set up our internal ERP system (NetSuite), to optimize international shipping path and cost, and to set up shipping path with BestBuy Canada, etc. I have strong interest and passion in problem solving through financial modeling and data analysis skills. At the same time, I have the passion to work in the fast pace working environment after 2 years in the startup.

* What is the responsibility of a Data analyst?

For a data analyst, the majority responsibility includes conducting full lifecycle. This will let data analyst to find real world problem, find. the insight of data, design or develop data model, and make valuable suggestion to the operations team.

* Which data analyst software are you trained in?

I’m mainly using Python and SQL to do data analysis. Also, I’d use MS excel as my tool as well.

* What was your most difficult data analysis project?

The most difficult data analysis project I’ve met is my movie recommendation project. I was trying to analysis a dataset from TMDB consisting of 26,000,0000 ratings and 750,000 tag applications. I explored the data to identify key features of movies.

The most difficult part for this project is to apply all the recommendation model to the data. I learned all the models in pandas, kenas, etc. and also embed them together.

* How do you handle pressure at work?

Most of my pressure at work is coming from too many jobs and tasks. I will prioritize all my tasks when I feel pressure and management my time for different tasks.

* What do you find interesting about this position?

I feel this role is a great fit with my background and career expectation. I’m looking for such a position in both finance and data analysis field.

* Why should we hire you to work here?

According to my background, I have knowledge of financing and data analysis. I think myself is a great fit for this position. At the same time, I have the experience in the startup, and I really have the passion in working in this fast pace environment. I also have a strong motivation to excel my data analysis skills.

* What salary range are you expecting?

My salary expectation is USD 60,000 annually.

* Explain what should be done with suspected or missing data?

First, I will check the percentage of missing data or suspected data to figure out if I need to drop the feature in this analysis project. If 90%+ of data is missed, I will drop this feature or rows.

If not, I will try to find if there is anything to replace the missing data by mean, medium, etc.

* What are the key skills required for Data Analyst?

The key skill for Data Analyst is communication and the ability to find the insight from massive data. I think besides the advance skills of coding or data modeling, the communication with the team, project managers, or software engineers is critical for a data analysis. As a data analyst, I need have a deep understand of the requirement of project and the data.

* How do you keep your team-mate motivated in the face of tight deadlines?

For a tight deadline, I will first have a meeting with my teammate and try to split the task for each team-mate. We should take action right after we have a detailed plan or road map for the task.

After the initial meeting, I will also sync with our team-mate periodically, like hourly, every half day or one day. In that case, we are trying to make sure everyone is on the right pace. We could modify the task accordingly if anyone meet any difficulties or big achievement.

* What are the criteria for a good data model?

For a good data model, there are some criteria: the data in a good model can be easily consumed. The data model can be scalable. The model should provide predictable performance. Last but not least, a good model can adapt to changes for new requirements.

* What computer software and databases have you worked with? What purpose did they serve?

I’m mainly working with MySQL, Python and Tableau for my data analysis.

I will use MySQL & Python in Jupyter Notebook to explore the dataset, create data model, visualize some basic plots, and verify my model.

When I need to do some advance visualization or create some dashboards, I will use Tableau.