# Data Analyst Interview Questions & Answers (6-Month Internship)

## What tools and technologies have you used during your internship?

During my internship at Dream With Data, I used tools like Excel for data cleaning and analysis, Power BI for data visualization, and Python (mainly Pandas and Matplotlib) for handling large datasets. I also practiced basic SQL queries for filtering, sorting, and retrieving data using the Sakila database.

## What is data cleaning and why is it important?

Data cleaning is the process of identifying and correcting errors, missing values, duplicates, or inconsistencies in the dataset. It’s important because clean data ensures accurate analysis and insights, which help in making reliable business decisions.

## Can you explain a project or task you worked on during your internship?

Yes, one of the tasks I worked on was analyzing sales data using Excel and Power BI. I cleaned the dataset by removing null values, fixed data types, created pivot tables, and built interactive dashboards in Power BI showing sales performance by region, category, and profit trends. This helped the team understand which regions were underperforming.

## How do you handle missing values in a dataset?

Depending on the context, I either:   
- Remove rows with too many missing values,  
- Fill them using methods like mean/median/mode,  
- Or leave them if they are meaningful (e.g., blank value can represent 'not available').  
In Excel, I used filters and conditional formatting. In Python, I used fillna() and dropna() functions.

## What is a Pivot Table, and how have you used it?

A Pivot Table in Excel is used to summarize, analyze, explore, and present data. I used it to group sales data by product and region, calculate totals, and analyze trends without changing the actual data. It’s helpful for quick, dynamic summaries.

## Suppose your dashboard is not updating with new data. What steps will you take?

First, I’ll check if the data source is correctly connected and refreshed. Then I’ll inspect if any filters or slicers are limiting the results. In Power BI, I’ll also ensure the relationships between tables are intact. Finally, I’ll click “Refresh All” to load the new data.

## How would you explain a technical report to a non-technical stakeholder?

I’d avoid jargon and focus on visuals and key takeaways. For example, rather than saying 'Standard Deviation is high,' I’d say 'The sales data shows high variation across months.' I use charts and simple insights that clearly explain the data story.

## Tell me about a challenge you faced during your internship and how you handled it.

Once, I was assigned a messy Excel dataset with many errors and duplicates. Initially, it was confusing, but I broke the task into steps—removed duplicates, used data validation, and applied formulas like IFERROR and VLOOKUP. I also asked my mentor for feedback, which helped me complete the task accurately and on time.

## How do you prioritize tasks when working on multiple projects?

I list down all tasks, assess deadlines and importance, and tackle high-priority items first. I also break large tasks into smaller milestones and keep my mentor updated. I used Excel and sticky notes to track my to-dos and maintain focus.

## Why do you want to continue your career as a Data Analyst?

During my internship, I really enjoyed working with data—especially uncovering patterns and creating visual dashboards. It felt rewarding to see how my work helped in decision-making. I’m passionate about continuous learning, and data analysis gives me both problem-solving and creativity.