**Most Common Interview Questions**

1. **Describe yourself.**

In order to keep myself up to date, I am eager to learn new tools and apply them to my works. I would like to expand my knowledge and experience in a leader company in a marketing domain.

Projects:

1. **TANF Project:** Impact of party affiliation of a governor and legislatures on social safety net programs. My role was to extracted data from several data sources, manipulating and cleaning, merging datasets to gather and perform the analysis. I met with the collaborator weekly to update her about the progresses.
2. We have tried several methods to estimate the effect including difference in differences, linear regression and non-parametric regression discontinuity design. We find out more restrictive policies associated with republican governors and legislatures. This project is about to end soon and will start to write down the as a research article.
3. **Innovation Capacity project:** This is a joint project with two collaborators, we investigated determinants of researcher and innovation capacity of countries covering over 150 countries. I collected several datasets from online sources on various sources and cleaned, visualized and analyzed dataset for my non-statistical collaborator. I have to explain every detail for her to understand and move from there. This project helped me practice translating my statistical knowledge and findings to non-technical audience.
4. **Medicaid expansion:** This is a joint project analyzing the effect of non-expanding Medicaid in Kansas. Other collaborator is health economist working in Sweden. I collected data from several sources, cleaned and visualized then apply synthetic control methodologies. This project still continues and progress report is presented to government officials.

**STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result)**

**What are your strengths?**

**Situation:** In my previous role as a data analyst at XYZ Company, I often worked on projects that required finding meaningful insights from large datasets.

**Task:** One particular project involved analyzing customer purchasing patterns to optimize our inventory management system. The goal was to reduce holding costs and improve product availability.

**Action:**

1. **Passionate about data:** I approached this task with enthusiasm, diving deep into the data to uncover patterns and relationships. This aligns with Amazon’s principle of “Dive Deep.” I used advanced statistical techniques and machine learning algorithms to analyze the data comprehensively.
2. **Enthusiastic learner:** To enhance my analysis, I self-taught several new tools and technologies, such as Python for data analysis and Tableau for data visualization. This reflects Amazon’s “Learn and Be Curious” principle. By continuously learning and applying new skills, I improved the accuracy and efficiency of my analysis.
3. **Attention to detail:** I meticulously checked the data for inconsistencies and errors before conducting any analysis. This attention to detail helped me identify potential issues early on, ensuring that the results were reliable and actionable. It also saved time by preventing the need to rework the analysis due to errors.
4. **Dedicated and hardworking:** I demonstrated dedication by working beyond regular hours when necessary to meet project deadlines. This commitment to delivering high-quality work aligns with Amazon’s “Deliver Results” principle. I ensured that the project was completed on time and met all the objectives.
5. **Working to disconfirm beliefs:** I constantly challenged my own analyses and hypotheses by seeking out data and evidence that could disconfirm my initial findings. This rigorous approach helped ensure that our conclusions were robust and unbiased, ultimately leading to more reliable and actionable insights.

**Result:** As a result of my efforts, the project successfully identified key purchasing patterns that informed our inventory management strategy. This led to a 15% reduction in holding costs and a 10% improvement in product availability, significantly enhancing our operational efficiency and customer satisfaction.

**Question: What are your weaknesses?**

**2. Attention to Detail:** **Situation:** My strong attention to detail sometimes slowed down my progress on projects. **Task:** I needed to balance thoroughness with efficiency to meet project deadlines. **Action:** I set clear priorities and timelines, focusing on critical details while streamlining less critical tasks. **Result:** This approach helped me maintain accuracy without compromising deadlines, leading to more efficient project completion. This reflects Amazon's principle of "Deliver Results."

**4. Asking Questions:** **Situation:** As a perfectionist, I sometimes hesitated to ask questions, preferring to figure things out on my own. **Task:** I needed to improve my efficiency by seeking clarification when needed. **Action:** I reminded myself of the importance of asking questions and actively sought feedback and clarification from colleagues when necessary.**Result:** This practice led to faster problem-solving and more effective teamwork, aligning with Amazon's principle of "Learn and Be Curious."

**Question: Why are you interested in the Amazon Economist position?**

**Situation:** I have been working as a data scientist for the past two years, where I have developed strong analytical and data-driven skills. While I have enjoyed my work, I feel that my current company lacks clear career goals and opportunities for growth.

**Task:** I am looking for a position that not only leverages my existing skills but also offers a clear path for professional development and the opportunity to make a significant impact.

**Action:** When considering my next career move, I sought out companies known for their commitment to innovation, data-driven decision-making, and robust professional growth opportunities. Amazon stands out as a leader in these areas. Specifically, the Economist position at Amazon excites me because it would allow me to apply my data science skills in a role that directly influences business strategy and economic insights. I am particularly drawn to Amazon’s commitment to deep data analysis and its culture of curiosity and continual learning, which aligns perfectly with my professional values and goals.

**Result:** By joining Amazon as an Economist, I envision being able to contribute to cutting-edge projects and drive impactful business decisions through rigorous economic analysis. This role represents an ideal next step in my career, where I can grow professionally in a dynamic environment while making meaningful contributions to a company that values data and innovation.

1. **Where do you see yourself in five years? Ten years?**

**Five Years:**

**Situation:** Having recently transitioned to the role of an Economist at Amazon, I am excited about the opportunities for growth and impact that this position offers.

**Task:** In the next five years, my goal is to deepen my expertise in economic analysis and data-driven decision-making within Amazon's innovative environment. I aim to take on increasing responsibilities and contribute to high-impact projects that drive business success.

**Action:** To achieve this, I plan to:

1. Continuously learn and apply new analytical tools and economic theories.
2. Collaborate closely with cross-functional teams to gain a holistic understanding of Amazon’s business operations.
3. Actively seek feedback and mentorship to refine my skills and broaden my perspective.
4. Lead projects that utilize economic insights to inform strategic decisions, aligning with Amazon's principle of "Dive Deep."

**Result:** In five years, I see myself as a senior economist at Amazon, recognized for my ability to leverage data to drive significant business outcomes. I aspire to be a key contributor to Amazon’s economic strategies, shaping policies and initiatives that enhance efficiency and growth.

**Ten Years:**

**Situation:** Reflecting on my career trajectory, I envision continuing to grow within Amazon, driven by the company's commitment to innovation and excellence.

**Task:** Over the next ten years, I aim to evolve into a leadership role where I can influence broader business strategies and mentor upcoming talent.

**Action:** To reach this long-term goal, I will:

1. Develop a deep understanding of Amazon’s diverse business segments.
2. Build a strong network within the company to foster collaboration and innovation.
3. Pursue leadership development opportunities and advanced economic research projects.
4. Champion initiatives that align with Amazon’s long-term vision and contribute to its market leadership.

**Result:** In ten years, I see myself as a director or VP of economics at Amazon, leading a team of talented economists and data scientists. I will be instrumental in shaping Amazon’s strategic direction through insightful economic analysis and innovative approaches, ensuring the company remains at the forefront of the industry.

1. **Why do you want to leave your current company?**

**Situation:** I have been working as a data scientist at my current company for the past two years, and during this time, I have gained valuable experience and developed strong analytical and problem-solving skills.

**Task:** While I have appreciated the opportunities I've had, I have reached a point where I am seeking new challenges and opportunities for professional growth that align with my long-term career goals.

**Action:** I am particularly drawn to Amazon for several reasons:

1. **Innovation and Impact:** Amazon’s reputation for innovation and its commitment to using data-driven insights to drive business decisions are incredibly appealing to me. I am excited about the prospect of working in an environment where I can contribute to impactful projects and help shape strategic decisions.
2. **Professional Growth:** Amazon offers unparalleled opportunities for career development and learning. The chance to work alongside talented professionals and engage in continuous learning aligns with my desire to expand my expertise and grow in my career.
3. **Culture and Values:** Amazon’s leadership principles, such as “Dive Deep,” “Learn and Be Curious,” and “Deliver Results,” resonate deeply with my professional values. I am eager to be part of a company that prioritizes customer obsession, innovation, and operational excellence.

**Result:** By joining Amazon as an economist, I believe I can leverage my current skills and experience to contribute meaningfully to the company while also achieving my own professional growth objectives. I am excited about the potential to work in a dynamic, data-driven environment where I can continue to learn, innovate, and make a significant impact.

1. **What can you offer us that someone else can not?**

**Situation:** Throughout my career, I have cultivated a unique blend of experiences and skills that set me apart.

**Task:** My background includes both military service and a PhD in economics. These experiences have instilled in me a strong work ethic, resilience, and a passion for continuous learning.

**Action:**

1. **Resilience and Work Ethic:** My military background has taught me the importance of perseverance and dedication. I have learned to work selflessly and maintain focus even in challenging situations. This resilience is crucial in a fast-paced and demanding environment like Amazon.
2. **Attention to Detail:** During my PhD education, I honed my analytical skills and developed a keen attention to detail. This ability ensures that my work is accurate and reliable, which is essential for making data-driven decisions at Amazon.
3. **Passion for Learning:** I am deeply passionate about learning new technologies and methodologies. I continually seek to expand my knowledge and stay updated with the latest advancements in data science and economics. This aligns with Amazon's leadership principle of "Learn and Be Curious."

**Result:** Combining my endurance, attention to detail, and passion for continuous learning, I bring a unique perspective and set of skills that enable me to tackle complex problems effectively and deliver high-quality results. My background equips me to contribute significantly to Amazon’s data-driven initiatives, ensuring both innovation and operational excellence.

1. **What are three things your former manager would like you to improve on?**

I can say asking for more help/questions when I feel I am stuck. I am used to understand and tackle problems by myself, but it would be easier sometimes to ask more questions or ask for help.

1. **Tell me about an accomplishment you are most proud of.**

**Situation:** In my previous role, I identified a critical need for efficient data processing and balancing weights creation for large datasets.

**Task:** Traditionally, our company relied on library-dependent solutions that could take hours to generate balancing weights for small datasets. However, there was a significant challenge in handling very large datasets efficiently.

**Action:**

1. **Innovation in Solution Development:** I took initiative to develop a custom script that could handle big data and create balancing weights in seconds, even for very large datasets. This involved leveraging advanced algorithms and optimizing the script for performance.
2. **Testing and Iteration:** I rigorously tested the script across various datasets to ensure accuracy and reliability. I iteratively refined the solution based on feedback and performance metrics.
3. **Implementation and Impact:** Upon successful testing, I implemented the solution within our company's data infrastructure. This not only saved substantial time and resources previously spent on purchasing weights data from external providers but also enhanced our data processing capabilities significantly.

**Result:** As a result of my initiative and innovation, our company achieved remarkable efficiency gains in data processing. My solution enabled us to handle large datasets more effectively and autonomously, aligning with Amazon's principle of "Invent and Simplify."

1. **Tell me about a time you made a mistake.**

**Situation:** In a recent project, I miscalculated the deadline, resulting in it taking longer than anticipated.

**Task:** I needed to rectify the situation and ensure the project was completed on time.

**Action:**

1. **Recognizing the Mistake:** Upon realizing my error in estimating the project timeline, I immediately informed my team and stakeholders about the delay.
2. **Seeking Help:** I proactively reached out to my teammates for assistance. Together, we assessed the remaining tasks and reallocated resources to expedite the project's completion.
3. **Adjusting Strategies:** To prevent similar issues in the future, I implemented improved project management techniques, including more thorough timeline assessments and regular progress updates.

**Result:** By acknowledging my mistake and collaborating closely with my team, we successfully delivered the project on time. This experience taught me the importance of accurate planning and effective teamwork, contributing to my growth in handling complex projects under pressure.

1. **What motivates you?**

**Situation:** Throughout my career, I have found motivation in several key areas that drive my professional aspirations.

**Task:** Understanding these motivations has been crucial in guiding my career path and achieving success in my roles.

**Action:**

1. **Impact and Innovation:** I am motivated by the opportunity to make a meaningful impact through innovation. At Amazon, I am inspired by the company's focus on pioneering new technologies and solutions that have a global reach. Contributing to projects that drive significant change and improve customer experiences energizes me.
2. **Continuous Learning:** I thrive in environments that encourage continuous learning and growth. Amazon's commitment to "Learn and Be Curious" resonates deeply with me. I am motivated by the chance to expand my skills, explore emerging technologies, and stay at the forefront of my field.
3. **Collaboration and Team Success:** Working collaboratively towards shared goals motivates me. I enjoy being part of a dynamic team where diverse perspectives come together to solve complex challenges. Amazon's emphasis on teamwork and its customer-centric approach aligns perfectly with my collaborative spirit.

**Result:** These motivations drive me to perform at my best and seek out opportunities where I can contribute effectively, innovate, and grow professionally. I am excited about the possibility of joining Amazon, where I can leverage my motivations to make a meaningful impact and thrive in a culture of innovation and excellence.

1. **What would you look to accomplish in the first 30 days/60 days/90 days on the job?**

I think I will can get to know the team and project details in the 30 days.

1. **Tell me how you handled a difficult situation.**

**Question: Give a time when you went above and beyond the requirements for a project.**

**Situation:** In my role as a data scientist at my previous company, we faced a recurring challenge with data processing efficiency and cost management.

**Task:** Recognizing the opportunity to streamline operations and reduce costs, I took initiative to develop a high-efficiency script for data processing.

**Action:**

1. **Innovative Solution Development:** I designed and implemented a custom script that significantly optimized data processing times across all datasets within the company. This involved leveraging advanced algorithms and optimizing code for maximum efficiency.
2. **Scalability and Adoption:** Understanding the potential impact, I ensured the script was scalable and applicable to various types and sizes of datasets used across different departments. I collaborated with IT and business units to facilitate its seamless integration into existing workflows.
3. **Training and Support:** To promote widespread adoption, I conducted training sessions and provided ongoing support to ensure teams could effectively utilize the new script. This included documentation and troubleshooting guides to address any implementation challenges.

**Result:** As a result of implementing this script, our company realized significant cost savings and operational efficiencies. Data processing times were reduced by X%, resulting in faster insights and decision-making. The script became a standard tool used company-wide, contributing to a culture of continuous improvement and innovation.

1. **How do you handle pressure?**

**Situation:** In my role as a data scientist, I frequently encounter situations that require working under tight deadlines and managing high-stakes projects.

**Task:** Handling pressure effectively is essential to maintaining productivity and delivering results.

**Action:**

1. **Prioritization:** When faced with pressure, I start by assessing the priorities of tasks and deadlines. I create a clear plan of action to ensure that critical tasks are addressed first, focusing on delivering impactful results.
2. **Time Management:** I manage my time effectively by breaking down tasks into manageable segments and setting realistic timelines. This approach allows me to maintain progress while ensuring quality and accuracy.
3. **Staying Calm and Focused:** I maintain a calm demeanor under pressure, which helps me stay focused on the task at hand. Deep breathing exercises and brief breaks help me reset and maintain clarity of thought.
4. **Seeking Support:** If the pressure intensifies, I am not hesitant to seek support from team members or supervisors. Collaborating with others can provide fresh perspectives and additional resources to address challenges effectively.

**Result:** By implementing these strategies, I have been able to successfully navigate high-pressure situations and deliver results consistently. This approach not only ensures that deadlines are met but also promotes a positive and supportive work environment, contributing to overall team success.

1. **What is the name of our CEO?**

Bill Koenigsberg

1. What are your career goals?

I am a career-oriented person. I would like to be the best or expert in data science.

1. **What would your direct reports say about you?**

Fast, on time, responsive

1. **Are you a leader or a follower?**

It depends on the case. I can be a follower or a leader.

1. **What are your hobbies?**

Spending time with my family. Outdoor activities like fishing, camping, hiking. I like playing soccer.

1. **What makes you uncomfortable?**

Not being trusted.

1. **What are some of your leadership experiences / What is your**[**leadership style**](https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/10-common-leadership-styles)**?**

More of a democratic leadership. I like to hear their opinions most of the time.

1. **Tell me about a time when you disagreed with your boss.**
2. **What questions do you have for me?**

What is your project look like?

What are the challenges in the project?

What is the team organization?

How do you work together or share the tasks?

**Disaster risk Assessment (UNDRR)**

A qualitative or quantitative approach to determine the nature and extent of disaster risk by analyzing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of exposure and vulnerability that together could harm people, property, services, livelihoods and the environment on which they depend.

Annotation: Disaster risk assessments include: the identification of hazards; a review of the technical characteristics of hazards such as their location, intensity, frequency and probability; the analysis of exposure and vulnerability, including the physical, social, health, environmental and economic dimensions; and the evaluation of the effectiveness of prevailing and alternative coping capacities with respect to likely risk scenarios.