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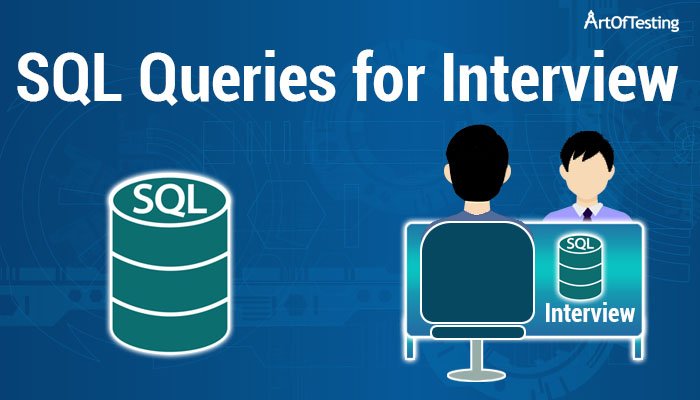
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**SQL Query Interview Questions**

[December 4, 2019](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview)



Hello friends! in this post, we will see some of the most commonly asked SQL queries in interviews. These questions are designed for both freshers as well as experienced professionals. We will start with queries covering basic SQL commands and then move to more complex problems.

Consider the below two tables for most of the questions asked here.  
  
**Table – EmployeeDetails**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **EmpId** | **FullName** | **ManagerId** | **DateOfJoining** |
| 121 | John Snow | 321 | 01/31/2014 |
| 321 | Walter White | 986 | 01/30/2015 |
| 421 | Kuldeep Rana | 876 | 27/11/2016 |

**Table – EmployeeSalary**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **EmpId** | **Project** | **Salary** |
| 121 | P1 | 8000 |
| 321 | P2 | 1000 |
| 421 | P1 | 12000 |

**SQL Queries Asked in Interviews with Answers**

**Ques.1. Write a SQL query to fetch the count of employees working in project ‘P1’.**  
Ans. Here, we would be using aggregate function count() with the SQL where clause-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT COUNT(\*)  FROM EmployeeSalary  WHERE Project = 'P1'; |

**Ques.2. Write a SQL query to fetch employee names having a salary greater than or equal to 5000 and less than or equal 10000.**  
Ans. Here, we will use BETWEEN in the ‘where’ clause to return the EmpId of the employees with salary satisfying the required criteria and then use it as subquery to find the fullName of the employee form EmployeeDetails table.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5 | SELECT FullName  FROM EmployeeDetails  WHERE EmpId IN  (SELECT EmpId FROM EmpolyeeSalary  WHERE Salary BETWEEN 5000 AND 10000); |

**Ques.3. Write a SQL query to fetch project-wise count of employees sorted by project’s count in descending order.**  
Ans. The query has two requirements – first to fetch the project-wise count and then to sort the result by that count. For project-wise count, we will be using the GROUP BY clause and for sorting, we will use the ORDER BY clause on the alias of the project-count.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4 | SELECT Project, count(EmpId) EmpProjectCount  FROM EmployeeSalary  GROUP BY Project  ORDER BY EmpProjectCount DESC; |

**Ques.4. Write a query to fetch only the first name(string before space) from the FullName column of EmployeeDetails table.**  
Ans. In this question, we are required to first fetch the location of the space character in the FullName field and then extract the first name out of the FullName field. For finding the location we will use LOCATE method in MySQL and CHARINDEX in SQL SERVER and for fetching the string before space, we will use SUBSTRING OR MID method.**mySQL- Using MID**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | SELECT MID(FullName, 0, LOCATE(' ',FullName))  FROM EmployeeDetails; |

**SQL Server-Using SUBSTRING**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | SELECT SUBSTRING(FullName, 0, CHARINDEX(' ',FullName))  FROM EmployeeDetails; |

**Also, we can use LEFT which returns the left part of a string till a specified number of characters.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | SELECT LEFT(FullName, CHARINDEX(' ',FullName) - 1)  FROM EmployeeDetails; |

**Ques.5. Write a query to fetch employee names and salary records. Return employee details even if the salary record is not present for the employee.**  
Ans. Here, we can use left join with EmployeeDetail table on the left side.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT E.FullName, S.Salary  FROM EmployeeDetails E LEFT JOIN EmployeeSalary S  ON E.EmpId = S.EmpId; |

**Ques.6. Write a SQL query to fetch all the Employees who are also managers from EmployeeDetails table.**  
Ans. Here, we have to use Self-Join as the requirement wants us to analyze the EmployeeDetails table as two different tables, each for Employee and manager records.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4 | SELECT DISTINCT E.FullName  FROM EmpDetails E  INNER JOIN EmpDetails M  ON E.EmpID = M.ManagerID; |

**Ques.7. Write a SQL query to fetch all employee records from EmployeeDetails table who have a salary record in EmployeeSalary table.**  
Ans. Using ‘Exists’-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* FROM EmployeeDetails E  WHERE EXISTS  (SELECT \* FROM EmployeeSalary S WHERE  E.EmpId = S.EmpId); |

**Ques.8. Write a SQL query to fetch duplicate records from a table.**  
Ans. In order to find duplicate records from the table, we can use GROUP BY on all the fields and then use HAVING clause to return only those fields whose count is greater than 1 i.e. the rows having duplicate records.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4 | SELECT EmpId, Project, Salary, COUNT(\*)  FROM EmployeeSalary  GROUP BY EmpId, Project, Salary  HAVING COUNT(\*) > 1; |

**Ques.9. Write a SQL query to remove duplicates from a table without using a temporary table.**  
Ans. Using rowId-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | DELETE FROM EmployeeSalary  WHERE rowid NOT IN  (SELECT MAX(rowid) FROM EmployeeSalary GROUP BY EmpId); |

**Ques.10. Write a SQL query to fetch only odd rows from the table.**  
Ans. This can be achieved by using Row\_number in SQL server-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6 | SELECT E.EmpId, E.Project, E.Salary  FROM (      SELECT \*, Row\_Number() OVER(ORDER BY EmpId) AS RowNumber      FROM EmployeeSalary  ) E  WHERE E.RowNumber % 2 = 1 |

**Ques.11. Write a SQL query to fetch only even rows from the table.**  
Ans. Using the same Row\_Number() and checking that the remainder when divided by 2 is 0-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6 | SELECT E.EmpId, E.Project, E.Salary  FROM (      SELECT \*, Row\_Number() OVER(ORDER BY EmpId) AS RowNumber      FROM EmployeeSalary  ) E  WHERE E.RowNumber % 2 = 0 |

**Ques.12. Write a SQL query to create a new table with data and structure copied from another table.**  
Ans. Using SELECT INTO command-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | SELECT \* INTO newTable  FROM EmployeeDetails; |

**Ques.13. Write a SQL query to create an empty table with the same structure as some other table.**  
Ans. Using SELECT INTO command with False ‘WHERE’ condition-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* INTO newTable  FROM EmployeeDetails  WHERE 1 = 0; |

This can also be done using MySQL ‘Like’ command with CREATE statement-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | CREATE TABLE newTable  LIKE EmployeeDetails; |

**Ques.14. Write a SQL query to fetch common records between two tables.**  
Ans. Using INTERSECT-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* FROM EmployeeSalary  INTERSECT  SELECT \* FROM ManagerSalary |

**Ques.15. Write a SQL query to fetch records that are present in one table but not in another table.**  
Ans. Using MINUS-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* FROM EmployeeSalary  MINUS  SELECT \* FROM ManagerSalary |

**Ques.16. Write a SQL query to find the current date-time.**  
Ans. MySQL-

|  |
| --- |
| SELECT NOW(); |

SQL Server-

|  |
| --- |
| SELECT getdate(); |

Oracle-

|  |
| --- |
| SELECT SYSDATE FROM DUAL; |

**Ques.17. Write a SQL query to fetch all the Employees details from EmployeeDetails table who joined in the Year 2016.**  
Ans. Using BETWEEN for the date range ’01-01-2016′ AND ’31-12-2016′-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* FROM EmployeeDetails  WHERE DateOfJoining BETWEEN '01-01-2016'  AND date '31-12-2016'; |

Also, we can extract year part from the joining date (using YEAR in mySQL)-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2 | SELECT \* FROM EmployeeDetails  WHERE YEAR(DateOfJoining) = '2016'; |

**Ques.18. Write a SQL query to fetch top n records?**  
Ans. In MySQL using LIMIT-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \*  FROM EmployeeSalary  ORDER BY Salary DESC LIMIT N |

In SQL server using TOP command-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT TOP N \*  FROM EmployeeSalary  ORDER BY Salary DESC |

In Oracle using ROWNUM-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT \* FROM  (SELECT \* FROM EmployeeSalary ORDER BY Salary DESC)  WHERE ROWNUM <= 3; |

**Ques.19. Write SQL query to find the nth highest salary from table.**  
Ans. Using Top keyword (SQL Server)-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | SELECT TOP 1 Salary  FROM (        SELECT DISTINCT TOP N Salary        FROM Employee        ORDER BY Salary DESC        )  ORDER BY Salary ASC |

Using limit clause(MySQL)-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3 | SELECT Salary  FROM Employee  ORDER BY Salary DESC LIMIT N-1,1; |

**Ques.20. Write SQL query to find the 3rd highest salary from table without using TOP/limit keyword.**  
Ans. The below SQL query makes use of correlated subquery wherein in order to find the 3rd highest salary the inner query will return the count of till we find that there are two rows that salary greater than other distinct salaries.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | SELECT Salary  FROM EmployeeSalary Emp1  WHERE 2 = (                  SELECT COUNT( DISTINCT ( Emp2.Salary ) )                  FROM EmployeeSalary Emp2                  WHERE Emp2.Salary > Emp1.Salary              ) |

For nth highest salary-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7 | SELECT Salary  FROM EmployeeSalary Emp1  WHERE N-1 = (                  SELECT COUNT( DISTINCT ( Emp2.Salary ) )                  FROM EmployeeSalary Emp2                  WHERE Emp2.Salary > Emp1.Salary              ) |

This concludes our post on frequently asked SQL query interview questions. I hope these questions help you in your interviews.

[](https://bit.ly/2uvAmvR)

*Do check our post on –*[***SQL Interview Questions***](https://bit.ly/2uvAmvR)*, focussing on the theoretical concepts of SQL.*

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13 thoughts on “SQL Query Interview Questions”

1. https://secure.gravatar.com/avatar/f1e2732e88f6363317d94ebe8b121a72?s=50&d=mm&r=g

**Firos**

[December 18, 2019 at 6:23 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-20)

I think the answer for Question Number 6 is wrong.I hope this is the Correct Answer , Also I think there is no need to use the distinct because emp\_id will be primary key normally

SELECT DISTINCT E.FullName  
FROM EmpDetails E  
INNER JOIN EmpDetails M  
ON E.EmpID = M.ManagerID AND E.EmpID=M.EmpID

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-20)

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**madiha**

[February 1, 2020 at 8:17 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-111)

@Firos You are right, but your solution also not giving us any solution , there is null value , I tried to correct it, please check it.

SELECT DISTINCT E.FullName  
FROM EmpDetails E  
INNER JOIN EmpDetails M  
ON E.ManagerID = M.ManagerID

Need to check employee who is a manager ,  
managerId and employee can’t be same, so how can we compare with each other. I think this works .

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-111)

**Alex levenson**

[December 27, 2019 at 5:57 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-37)

Thank You so much, these queries are very useful.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-37)

**Pawan**

[January 3, 2020 at 11:22 am](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-52)

For 2nd Level Manager Name:  
SELECT DISTINCT A.EmpID,ISNULL(C.Name,”) Manager\_Name  
FROM Emp\_Mgr A  
LEFT OUTER JOIN Emp\_Mgr B ON A.MangrID=B.EmpID  
LEFT OUTER JOIN Emp\_Mgr C ON B.MangrID=C.EmpID

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-52)

**Paula**

[January 14, 2020 at 3:21 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-74)

Thanks for the queries.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-74)

**geet**

[January 20, 2020 at 3:01 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-94)

DELETE FROM EmployeeSalary  
WHERE EmpId IN (  
SELECT EmpId  
FROM EmployeeSalary  
GROUP BY Project, Salary  
HAVING COUNT(\*) > 1));

this query is wrong

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-94)

**Kuldeep Rana**

[January 20, 2020 at 3:35 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-95)

Hi Geet, thanks for pointing out, please let us know, what you find wrong in this query.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-95)

**Nishant**

[February 3, 2020 at 3:06 am](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-114)

The Sub query : If you are grouping by – Project and Salary, then you can’t just write EmpId in the Select query.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-114)

**Kuldeep Rana**

[February 3, 2020 at 11:26 am](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-115)

Thanks, there were other issues as well, removed that query for now, keeping only the rowId solution, will add after testing with multiple databases now.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-115)

**Mohamed**

[January 20, 2020 at 4:55 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-96)

Hi thanks for the queries  
The Ans of Ques.9 is wrong :

GROUP BY EmpId , Project, Salary (you should add EmpId)

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-96)

**Kuldeep Rana**

[January 20, 2020 at 5:31 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-97)

Thanks Mohamed, query corrected.

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-97)

**Dorris Delem**

[January 26, 2020 at 11:40 pm](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-101)

Question 15 is actually comparing between Employee details and Employee salary. but, its given Manger salary

[Reply](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-101)

**Kuldeep Rana**

[January 27, 2020 at 9:58 am](https://artoftesting.com/sql-queries-for-interview#comment-102)

Thanks Dorris, the intention was to just show the usage of ‘Minus’ command. Also, since EmployeeDetails and EmployeeSalary have different structures, so we can’t use minus with ‘\*’ with those tables. Hence, I had to introduce a third table – ManagerSalary.

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