ACE IT CAREERS
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FREE INTERVIEW GUIDE

QA Tester Interview Questions & Answers

The questions QA candidates are asked most often in U.S. interviews, with short model answers. Use them to practise, then put the answers in your own words with examples from your project.

16 questions | Model answers

01 What is the difference between QA and QC?

Quality assurance is process-focused and prevents defects by improving how software is built. Quality control is product-focused and finds defects by testing the product.

02 Explain the SDLC and STLC.

SDLC covers the whole software life cycle: requirements, design, development, testing, deployment and maintenance. STLC is the testing part: requirement analysis, test planning, test case design, environment setup, execution and closure.

03 What is the difference between smoke and sanity testing?

Smoke testing is a quick, broad check that a new build is stable enough to test. Sanity testing is a narrow check that a specific fix or feature works before deeper testing.

04 What is regression testing?

Re-running existing tests after a change to make sure nothing that worked before is now broken. It is a common candidate for automation.

05 Describe the defect life cycle.

New → Assigned → Open → Fixed → Retest → Verified → Closed, with possible Reopened, Deferred, Duplicate or Rejected states.

06 Severity vs priority?

Severity is the impact of a defect on the system. Priority is how urgently it should be fixed. A typo in the company name on the home page is low severity but high priority.

07 What is an RTM?

A Requirements Traceability Matrix maps each requirement to its test cases, so you can prove every requirement is covered and see the impact of changes.

08 How would you test a login page?

Valid and invalid credentials, empty fields, password masking, length and special characters, lockout after failed attempts, remember-me, forgot password, SQL injection and XSS inputs, session timeout, browser back button, and accessibility.

09 What is the difference between verification and validation?

Verification asks ‘are we building the product right?’ (reviews, walkthroughs). Validation asks ‘are we building the right product?’ (testing the working software).

10 What is exploratory testing?

Simultaneous learning, test design and execution without scripted test cases, guided by the tester's experience. Useful for finding unexpected defects.

11 Write a SQL query to find duplicate emails in a users table.

SELECT email, COUNT(*) FROM users GROUP BY email HAVING COUNT(*) > 1;

12 What are Selenium locators?

Ways to find elements: id, name, className, tagName, linkText, partialLinkText, cssSelector and xpath. Prefer id or a stable CSS selector.

13 Implicit vs explicit wait in Selenium?

An implicit wait applies to every element search for a set time. An explicit wait (WebDriverWait) waits for a specific condition on a specific element, which is more reliable.

14 What is the Page Object Model?

A design pattern where each page has a class holding its locators and actions. Tests call those methods, which keeps code reusable and easy to maintain.

15 How do you test an API with Postman?

Send requests with the right method, headers and body, then assert status codes, response time, response body and schema. Use environments and variables for different servers.

16 Tell us about your project.

Describe the application, your role, the types of testing you did, tools used, number of test cases, an interesting defect you found and how you worked with developers.

Tip: practise saying each answer out loud with an example from your own project. Book a free mock interview at www.aceitcareers.com/contact