

Interview Questions to Ask a Back-end Developer| Xobin [Downloaded]

We at Xobin reached out to over 70+ Hiring teams to curate the best interview questions. We didn't stop there.

We went ahead to understand what type of answers differentiated the top candidate from the rest. Here is what we've got for you.

Role-specific skills to look for : Backend programming languages, databases, servers, APIs, and basic exposure to frontend techs.

Soft skills to look for: Creativity, flexibility, communication skills, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Pro Tip: Always screen before your interview. Use [Online Assessment to screen applicants for a Back-end Developer](#) position before blocking your time for an in-person interview.

Compilation of Back-end Developer Questions

Role-Based Interview Questions to ask a Back-end Developer



What are the fundamental skills Back-end developers you think must have?

Purpose of the question: Being aware of the responsibility and skills required as a professional is a sign of a top candidate.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the specific skills required for a Back-end developer and if the candidate fits the company culture or not.



What are programming languages are you familiar with? Which ones are you learning?

Purpose of the question: The question is designed to make sure the candidate has the knowledge of the coding skills and languages required for this job position.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal candidate should have some experience with languages like PHP, Python, Ruby, Java, .NET, and JavaScript. Also, look for evidence of eagerness to learn new skills.



What is the difference between JOIN and UNION?

Purpose of the question: Knowledge of basic MySQL functions and concepts like JOIN and UNION is critical for any programmer.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidate would explain this by giving a sample program.



Define and explain these three server response error codes: 400, 401 and 404.

Purpose of the question: The question is designed to get to know if the candidate knows the depth of your error knowledge.

What to listen for in candidate response: A top candidate would explain what the code means and what caused the error.



How do you structure your source code to make it easy to leverage by your colleagues?

Purpose of the question: As teamwork and cooperation are one of the major skills for any developer, hence this question is designed to know if the candidate knows how to work with code to make it easier for others to understand.

What to listen for in candidate response: Candidates need to discuss their use of code organization and commenting, to ensure the efficiency of understanding amongst collaborators.



What steps would you take to use mysqldump to restore MySQL?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to test some language-specific questions to spot-check coding skills.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidate would explain the steps required to restore MySQL using simple words, while analysing the approach to the question.



What are the seven layers in the OSI system model?

Purpose of the question: The following question is designed to test both the theoretical and practical knowledge of the candidates.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would list out all the layers of the OSI system model.



What's the difference between threads and processes?

Purpose of the question: Questions like this are asked to test the foundational knowledge and specific competence of the candidates.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for specific terms that differentiate between threads and processes.



Can you name some Performance Testing best practices?

Purpose of the question: Testing and debugging are critical topics for a back-end developer job role.

What to listen for in candidate response: Candidates must concisely explain the best practices of performance testing.



Can you compare SQL databases and MongoDB at a high level?

Purpose of the question: As working with a database is one of the major skills required for a back-end developer, hence it is critical to the job role that a candidate can differentiate between SQL and MongoDB databases.

What to listen for in candidate response: A top candidate would list out the various points to compare SQL and MongoDB databases.

Situational Interview Questions to ask a Back-end Developer



Was there a time when you experienced pushback on a project you were working on? How did you manage the situation?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to learn how dedicated are the candidates towards their vision and are able to make a case for development decisions they believe in.

What to listen for in candidate response: Look for candidates who have navigated the pushback gracefully, listening to the feedback and explaining their perspective.



Describe your experience on a difficult project that involved many stakeholders. How did you get the project done?

Purpose of the question: This question is asked to know about the collaborative skills of a candidate.

What to listen for in candidate response: Look for signs where the candidate took charge and motivated the rest of the team.



What are your favourite apps and why do you like them?

Purpose of the question: Using this question the candidate's ambition and willingness to learn awareness of the industry, as well as their appreciation for the nuances of application development, can be tested.

What to listen for in candidate response: Look for evidence of inspiration and motivation to constantly improve.



What are some principles every software developer should follow, in your opinion?

Purpose of the question: Being aware of the responsibility and skills required as a professional is a sign of a top candidate.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the specific skills required for a Back-end developer and if the candidate fits the company culture or not.



How do you set goals for yourself, can you give an example?

Purpose of the question: Since the planning of goals and time management is a critical ability for this job role, hence this question tests the same.

What to listen for in candidate response: Ideal candidates would elaborate on what basis they set their goals and their dedication towards them.



Why do you want to work for our company?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to know what kind of information does the candidate has about your company culture and what has excited them to join your organization.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the detail about what has driven the candidate to work for your organization.



Has there been a time when you received negative feedback?

Purpose of the question: With this question, you can get to know about the candidate's professionalism and how open-minded they are.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal answer will provide detail of the circumstances, feedback, and approach to find a solution.



How do you deal with a failed deadline?

Purpose of the question: Being able to deal with deadlines is a sign of a top candidate.

What to listen for in candidate response: Look for evidence of sincerity and dedication.



What are your salary expectations?

Purpose of the question: This question helps in understanding what the market is currently paying for certain qualifications, experience, and skills.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would give the range of salary they expect.



Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to understand the future goals and if that is relevant and realistic to the position.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the skills the candidate wants to develop and how would it help the company.

Start Optimizing your Back-end Developer Hiring today

Find and hire talent with confidence. If your candidate doesn't know the answer to the above questions and you're hiring for a Back-end Developer position, then they're obviously not a great fit.



Prepared and Curated by Xobin Team