

# Interview Questions to Ask a Data Engineer| 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:** Data systems(SQL and NoSQL), Data warehousing solutions, ETL tools, Machine learning, Data APIs, Python, Java, and Scala programming languages, Understanding the basics of distributed systems, Knowledge of algorithms and data structures.

**Soft skills to look for:** presentation skills, collaboration, communication, expository training, critical thinking, and adaptability.

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

## Compilation of Data Engineer Questions

### Role-Based Interview Questions to ask a Data Engineer



Explain the design schemas relevant to data modeling?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to tests the candidate's knowledge of the fundamentals of data engineering.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the terms which explain the two schemas of data modeling.

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How Does a Data Warehouse Differ from an Operational Database?

**Purpose of the question:** This question can be asked to determine if the candidate has an understanding of the basic concepts and skills required for the job role.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the terms that differentiate between data warehouse and operational database.

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What do you consider yourself database- or pipeline-centric?

**Purpose of the question:** By asking this question, the interviewer can determine whether a candidate has a focus area and if it matches the needs of the company.

**Purpose of the question:** Top candidates will provide an honest assessment of their specialization and technical knowledge and experience.

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What is the difference between lists and tuples?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to assess a candidate's in-depth knowledge of Python.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the specific terms that explain how are lists and tuples are different.

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Do you have any experience with ETL frameworks? Are there any preferences?

**Purpose of the question:** This question can be asked to test the candidate's knowledge of the ETL process since it is a fundamental procedure in SQL.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** An ideal candidate would demonstrate their knowledge of the ETL process.

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Have you worked with the Hadoop framework(or any framework used by the company)?

**Purpose of the question:** Every organization uses a few particular tools and frameworks for every job role. Hence this question can be asked to understand if the candidate has experience with the ones used by your organization.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would provide a detailed account of the projects they have completed using the framework.

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Can you list some of the pros and cons of working in a cloud computing environment?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to tests if the candidate has a basic idea of cloud computing and what possible challenges can they face while using them.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Look for the evidence of understanding of the shortcomings and advantages of the present technology in the industry.

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How would you validate a data migration from one database to another?

**Purpose of the question:** This question can be asked to understand a candidate's thought process on how validation of data would happen.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** An ideal candidate would speak be able to speak about appropriate validation types in different scenarios.

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How can you deploy a big data solution?

**Purpose of the question:** By asking this question you can understand what are the steps the candidate follows to deploy a big data solution. Top candidates would emphasize the three steps Data Integration/Ingestion, Data storage, Data processing.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would explain selection bias and why is it important.

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How can data analytics help the business grow and boost revenue?

**Purpose of the question:** Understanding how to help the business grow, achieve its goals, and result in higher ROI is important to this job position.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would illustrate the advantages of data analytics to boost revenue, improve customer satisfaction, and increase profit.

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## Situational Interview Questions to ask Data Engineer



Have you ever faced an unanticipated problem while trying to merge data together from many different places?

**Purpose of the question:** Interviewers can ask this question to understand a candidate's ability to handle unexpected problems and creativity to solve them.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would explain how they handle the situation and solved them.

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How have your previous work experiences prepared you for this job role, in your opinion?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to learn about the collaboration, dedication, and other skills of a candidate.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Pay attention to the answer and look if the examples shared, are fairly inconsequential, unintentional, and a learned lesson should be gleaned from it.

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Is there any new technology that you have learned recently? And where did you imply it?

**Purpose of the question:** Being updated with the latest trends in the market is a sign of a top candidate.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Look for evidence of the understanding of the new trends in the candidate.

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What challenges do you face in any of your recent projects?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to understand how the candidate applied their problem-solving and analytical skills to direct effective processes between the challenges.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would describe their experience with effective workflow, effective communication, and other roles.

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What challenges are you looking for in this Data Engineer position?

**Purpose of the question:** The question is designed to understand and determine what the candidates are looking for in their next job and whether they would be a good fit for the position being hired for.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would discuss how they would like to be able to effectively utilize their skills and experience if they were hired for the job.

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Has there been any instance where a member of your disagreed with you?  
How did you handle that?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to understand how the candidate applied their teamwork and other skills to direct effective processes between the disagreements.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would describe their experience with effective workflow, effective communication, and other roles as a team player.

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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.

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What skills do you think are necessary for this job role?

**Purpose of the question:** Since software developers rely on a combination of technical knowledge and transferable skills to be successful. Therefore it is important for an applicant for this role to show the required skills.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Look for evidence of the required skills for this job role.

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What are your salary expectations?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is 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.

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Do you have any questions for us?

**Purpose of the question:** The question is designed to know how interested the candidates are in your company.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would ask questions and show interested in the job and company-related details.

### **Start Optimizing your Data Analyst 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 Data Analyst position, then they're obviously not a great fit.



Prepared and Curated by Xobin Team