

Interview Questions to Ask a Data Scientist| 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: Programming languages like R, Python, SQL, Scala, Java, Matlab; Machine learning, Data Visualization, Big Data platforms like MongoDB, Oracle, Microsoft Azure, Cloudera, Risk analysis.

Soft skills to look for: critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, research, problem-solving, and business sense.

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

Compilation of Data Scientist Questions

Role-Based Interview Questions to ask a Data Scientist



What is the difference between validation and data set?

Purpose of the question: Since data scientists use data sets to train and update models and algorithms, hence this question can be asked to test the same.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the specific terms which differentiate between validation and data set.



What techniques do you use to clean up and organizing big data sets?

Purpose of the question: As data scientists, often clean data to analyze information accurately to offer recommendations that solve business problems. Hence, this question is designed to test how a candidate's methods for organizing large data.

What to listen for in candidate response: Ideal answers would include topics like automation tools, value correction methods, and comprehension of data sets.



What do you know about regularization?

Purpose of the question: Knowledge of machine learning is one of the important technical skills required for this job role. Hence this question can be used to test the candidate's knowledge of basic machine learning concepts..

Purpose of the question: Listen for the specific terms that explain regularization.



What is the difference between machine learning and deep learning?

Purpose of the question: Since machine learning and deep learning are two important subsets of Artificial intelligence, hence this question is designed to test the candidate's knowledge in the same.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal candidate must show evidence that they understand and know how to use it.



What are methods do you use to identify outliers within a data set?

Purpose of the question: This question can be used to understand the candidate's analytical skills like how they allocate their time to finding the best way to detect outliers.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidate would talk about raw data analysis, models, and approaches..



How do you organize big data sets data?

Purpose of the question: By asking this question an interviewer can test a candidate's knowledge and ability in organizing large data, and if they are familiar with both the processes and the tools required for organizing data.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal candidate would discuss their experience in have organized a large set of data, identifying the tools used, and the results of the process..



Is having a large amount of data always preferable?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to determine the applicant's philosophy and general thinking when it comes to data.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would discuss how a preferable amount of data typically depends on the context on the basis of their professional experience.



What do you know about root cause analysis?

Purpose of the question: Applying data to fix and discover various issues is crucial to a data scientists' job role. Therefore, this question can be asked to test the candidate's theoretical knowledge and practical experience conducting a root cause analysis.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would show how well-equipped for this data science position.



What is selection bias?

Purpose of the question: This question can be used to make sure the candidate understands a selection bias so they can monitor and prevent it from happening.

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



What do you prefer Python or R, while doing text analytics?

Purpose of the question: Expertise in Python and R is crucial to this job role, hence this question can be asked to test the same. Look for the evidence of understanding of when to use each.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would show if they have a good sense of your company's goal and are familiar with industries practices and norms.

Situational Interview Questions to ask Data Scientist



What are the steps that you take in an analytics project?

Purpose of the question: Interviewers can ask this question to understand a candidate's problem-solving skills and how they work through a project.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would explain their step-by-step procedure while working on an analytics project.



How do you think your previous work experiences have prepared you for this job role?

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.



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.



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.



What challenges are you looking for in this Data Scientist 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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