

Interview Questions to Ask a Database Administrator DBA| 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: Knowledge of database queries, database theory, database design, DBMS, distributed computing architectures, operating system, storage technologies and networking, routine maintenance, recovery, and handling failover of a database

Soft skills to look for: analytical, problem-solving, communication, interpersonal skills, and attention to detail.

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

Compilation of Database Administrator DBA Questions

Role-Based Interview Questions to ask a Database Administrator DBA



Can you briefly explain a database?

Purpose of the question: This question can be asked to test a candidate's basic knowledge of databases.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the specific terms that explain what is database.



Share your experience with database servers.

Purpose of the question: This question can be asked to test the candidate's familiarity with database servers.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would list out the circumstances of the usage of each system and experience with them.



What is ODBC?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to test the candidate's technical knowledge.

Purpose of the question: An ideal answer will cover basic concepts and ODBC's role in a database environment.



What is the difference between a system database and a user database?

Purpose of the question: Like the previous question, this question too, is designed to test the candidate's technical knowledge.

What to listen for in candidate response: Listen for the specific terms which show the difference between a system database and a user database.



If a customer needs a server. How would determine the right one?

Purpose of the question: By asking the question, the interviewer can determine the candidate's server knowledge insight of their process and how they interact with customers.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal candidate would list out the questions they would ask the customer.



What types of data replication are supported in SQL servers?

Purpose of the question: This is a technical question and can be asked to test the candidate's knowledge of basic databases concepts and features.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would list out the three replications, how do they work and what are they used for.



How do you handle data loss?

Purpose of the question: Knowledge of how to troubleshoot and recover data is an important function of a Database administrator. Therefore this question can be asked to understand to test the same.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would explain their troubleshooting and recovery process and how they work under pressure.



What are some of your favorite third-party database tools?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to understand if the candidate is familiar with the tools the organization already uses. It helps in demonstrating their ability to solve a variety of problems.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would list out their preferred tools and the reason why they use them.



What is the highest number of database servers you have worked with?

Purpose of the question: This question can be asked to get an idea of how large of a data center the database administrator has worked with.

What to listen for in candidate response: An ideal candidate especially if you are a company, must have experience with multiple servers and different server environments.



Do you have any previous experience with Hadoop(or any other big data technology)?

Purpose of the question: This question can be asked to understand a candidate's existing experience if any with big data technologies.

What to listen for in candidate response: A candidate with experience will share their knowledge of to subject matter, and a candidate without knowledge would show a

desire to learn new trends and solutions.

Situational Interview Questions to ask Database Administrator DBA



What is the most complex project you have worked on?

Purpose of the question: By asking this question the interviewer can test the candidate's technical analysis, problem-solving, and troubleshooting skills.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would explain what were the problems they faced and how did they overcome them.



What are the interpersonal skills you have gained from your previous job as a Database Administrator?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to learn about what types of interpersonal traits a candidate has that could enhance their job capabilities at their company.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would show evidence of self-awareness, by discussing their previous experiences.



What is one of your proudest moments as a Database Administrator so far?

Purpose of the question: This question is designed to understand and gain insight into how a candidate thinks and feels within the context of their field.

What to listen for in candidate response: Top candidates would describe what was achieved in the project and how does it stack up with what your company does.



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 DBA 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 Database Administrator DBA 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 Database Administrator DBA position, then they're obviously not a great fit.



Prepared and Curated by Xobin Team