

# Interview Questions to Ask a Software 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 :** Java, Python, C#, Ruby, Object-oriented design, Software development, testing, and debugging.

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

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

## Compilation of Software Engineer Questions

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



While writing your own database server what do you consider?

**Purpose of the question:** As a software engineer works frequently with data stores, hence it is important to test how much they understand the factors of the application.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** A ideal answer would discuss database principles such as file sharing, threading, etc.

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What are the fundamental skills Software engineers 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:** Being aware of the responsibility and skills required as a professional is a sign of a top candidate.

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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 Java, C++, and Python. Also, look for evidence of eagerness to learn new skills.

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How is an array different from a stack?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to test the candidates' knowledge of basic programming skills, therefore anyone applying for a job position like this must know about it.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the specific terms which differentiate between stack and array.

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What do you know about Dijkstra's Shortest Path and can you implement it in a programming language of your choice?

**Purpose of the question:** This question tests the candidates' knowledge of data structures and algorithms and coding skills at the same time.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the terms that explain the topic and check how well the candidate can write the code for the same.

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How familiar are you with the concept of OOPS?

**Purpose of the question:** OOPs is one of the most critical concepts for any programmer, hence it becomes important that an applicant of this role knows about concepts like this.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the specific terms that explain OOPs.

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What is the difference between object-oriented and component-based design?

**Purpose of the question:** Knowledge of both object-oriented and component-based programming is essential for any programmer, a software engineer must be able to differentiate between the two.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** A top candidate would explain how object-oriented design encapsulates the component-based design.

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Can you list out the different types of static testing tools?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to test the candidates' knowledge of software testing and the tools used for the same.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Top candidates would list out all the different types of static testing tools.

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What do you know about SDLC?

**Purpose of the question:** Software Development Life Cycle is one of the crucial concepts required in software development, hence anyone applying for the job role must know about the same.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the specific terms that explain SDLC and what processes it involves.

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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.

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## Situational Interview Questions to ask a Software Engineer



Can you tell us about the latest project you have worked on? What was your contribution to its success and did you face any obstacles during it?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to get an insight into the candidate's overall contribution to the project, management skills, and how they work with a team.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the evidence of problem-solving, time management, and other required skills required for a software engineer's job position.

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Do you enjoy working in a team or alone?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to understand if the candidate is a team player or loner.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** An ideal candidate should be able to work in both situations.

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How do you keep your skills up to date?

**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 should we hire you?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to give the applicant the opportunity to explain more about themselves, what their skills are, and how they will help your company reach its goals.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Make note of what can the candidate bring to the table and help the organization reach its goal.

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Where do yourself in 5 years?

**Purpose of the question:** This question is designed to learn about the preference, thoughts and give a chance to the candidate to reflect towards in their approach to their chosen career.

**What to listen for in candidate response:** Listen for the qualities that align with the values your company stands for.

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What is one of your favourite software and what do you like about it?

**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.



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 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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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.

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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 Software Engineer 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 Software Engineer position, then they're obviously not a great fit.



Prepared and Curated by Xobin Team