

QA Engineer interview checklist

QA hiring usually runs as an online test on testing concepts and sometimes coding, a technical round that may include writing test cases or an automation script live, a round with a QA lead or manager on strategy and past projects, and a final HR discussion.

10 QUESTIONS TO PRACTISE OUT LOUD

1. What is the difference between severity and priority? Give an example where they differ.

What it checks: Whether you understand how bugs are classified and triaged, and that technical impact and business urgency are separate judgements.

2. Tell me about a time a developer rejected a bug you reported.

What it checks: Whether you handle disagreement with developers through evidence and calm discussion, keeping the focus on product quality rather than winning.

3. Why do you want to build a career in software testing?

What it checks: Whether a fresher sees testing as a real career with growth, not a backup option, and has relevant interest or skills.

4. Write test cases for a login page with email, password and a Remember me option.

What it checks: Whether you think beyond the happy path to negative, boundary, security and usability cases, which is the core of test design.

5. Describe a critical bug you found just before a release. What did you do?

What it checks: Whether you raise serious risks clearly and quickly under pressure, and support the team in deciding what to do.

6. Some of our projects need support during release nights and weekend deployments. Is that acceptable?

What it checks: Whether you understand the occasional off-hours nature of release testing and can commit to it reliably.

7. Explain the bug life cycle you follow in your team.

What it checks: Whether you know how defects move through statuses and who acts at each stage, which shows you have worked in a real QA process.

8. Tell me about a bug you missed that reached production.

What it checks: Whether you own escapes honestly and improve the testing process afterwards, rather than blaming developers or requirements.

9. What salary do you expect for this QA automation role?

What it checks: Whether you give a realistic, reasoned figure based on your skills, especially your automation experience.

10. Explain boundary value analysis and equivalence partitioning using an age field that accepts 18 to 60.

What it checks: Whether you can apply formal test design techniques to reduce the number of tests while still catching the most likely errors.

TIPS FOR THIS INTERVIEW

- Practise writing test cases for everyday features such as login, search, cart and payment within ten minutes, because this is a very common live task.
- Be ready to write a small automation script without help, including locators, an explicit wait and an assertion, in the language on your resume.
- Revise testing terms precisely: severity versus priority, smoke versus sanity, verification versus validation, and test plan versus test strategy.
- Prepare one story about a critical bug you found and one about a bug you missed, with what you changed afterwards.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Confirm the time, venue or video link and the interviewer's name
- ☐ Plan your route and leave time for traffic, or test your camera, microphone and internet
- ☐ Keep copies of your resume, ID proof, certificates and photographs in a folder
- ☐ Iron your clothes and charge your phone and laptop
- ☐ Do one final run-through of your introduction, then stop and rest

ON THE DAY

- ☐ Arrive 15 minutes early, or log in 5–10 minutes early for a video call
- ☐ Greet everyone politely, including the receptionist or coordinator
- ☐ Listen to the full question, pause, then answer in a clear structure
- ☐ Take brief notes of names and key points
- ☐ Ask your prepared questions and confirm the next steps before you leave