Data Analyst Interview Preparation PDF

A data analyst interview usually tests SQL, Excel or Python, basic statistics, a business case and communication. Prepare over four weeks: week one for SQL, week two for Excel and Python, week three for cases and statistics, and week four for mock interviews and your project stories.

Key takeaways

- Most analyst loops have a screening call, a technical round, a case or take-home task and a manager round.
- SQL is tested in almost every loop, so practise joins, grouping and window functions first.
- Prepare two project stories that follow problem, data, method, result and limits.
- Practise explaining numbers to a non-technical listener, since communication is scored.
- Mock interviews with a friend find weak spots faster than reading answers.

What is data analyst interview preparation?

Data analyst interview preparation is the planned practice of the skills, stories and answers needed for each round of an analyst hiring process, from the screening call to the technical test and the case discussion.

What do analyst interview rounds look like?

Hiring processes differ, but most follow a pattern. A **screening call** checks your background and interest. A **technical round** tests SQL and a tool such as Excel, Power BI or Python. A **case or take-home task** gives you a dataset or a business problem. A **manager round** checks communication, judgement and fit. Ask the recruiter which rounds to expect so that you can prepare for the right ones.

How should I plan four weeks?

Week 1: SQL. Practise SELECT, WHERE, GROUP BY, HAVING, joins, subqueries, CTEs and window functions. Solve three problems a day and say your logic aloud. Review mistakes at the end of each day.

Week 2: Excel and Python. In Excel, practise lookups, SUMIFS, PivotTables and charts. In Python, practise loading a CSV with pandas, cleaning, grouping, merging and plotting. Keep a small sheet of snippets you often forget.

Week 3: statistics and cases. Revise mean, median, standard deviation, correlation, sampling and A/B tests. Then solve two business cases, such as "why did sales fall last month?", using the steps

below.

Week 4: mocks and stories. Do three mock interviews, write your project stories, prepare questions for the interviewer and rest the day before.

How do I solve a business case?

Use a simple frame: **clarify** the goal and metric, **break down** the metric into parts, **segment** by region, product, channel or customer, **check data quality**, **form hypotheses**, **test** them with data and **recommend** an action with a way to measure it. For falling sales, split sales into orders times average order value, then look at which part changed and where.

What do I say about my projects?

Write each project in five lines: the question, the data, what you did, the result and what you would improve. Use a number only if it is true and you can explain how it was computed. Interviewers often ask "why did you choose that method?", so know your reasons.

How do I answer a question I do not know?

Say what you do know, state how you would find out and give a reasonable first approach. For example, "I have not used that function, but I would look up the syntax and test it on a small sample first." Honest reasoning scores better than a confident wrong answer.

What technical drills help most?

Skill	Daily drill
SQL joins	Write one query joining three tables
Window functions	Rank rows within a group
Excel	Build one PivotTable from raw data
Python	Clean one messy CSV
Statistics	Explain one concept in plain words
Communication	Summarise a chart in three sentences

What should I ask the interviewer?

Ask which tools the team uses, how success is measured in the first months, what a typical project looks like and how analysts work with other teams. Good questions show interest and help you judge the role.

What is a good final checklist?

Resume matches your story, projects open and working, SQL and Excel practised this week, three examples of teamwork or problem solving ready, questions for the interviewer written, and a quiet

place and working internet for an online round.

How do I handle the take-home or live technical test?

Read the brief twice and list the questions you must answer before you open the data. Spend the first ten minutes checking the data: row counts, missing values, date ranges and duplicates. Write down any assumption you make and state it again in your answer. If the test is timed, finish a simple correct answer first and improve it only if time remains. Explain your steps aloud in a live test, because the interviewer is judging reasoning as much as the result.

How do I stay calm and manage time?

Sleep well, test your internet and tools in advance, keep water nearby and take a short pause before answering hard questions. If you freeze, repeat the question in your own words; this gives you time and often reveals the first step. After each mock interview, note one thing that went well and one thing to change.

What should I do after the interview?

Send a short thank-you message, write down the questions you were asked while they are fresh and review any you could not answer. These notes become your best study material for the next round.

Frequently asked questions

How long should I prepare for a data analyst interview?

Four weeks of regular practice is a good plan for most freshers, with SQL first, then Excel or Python, then cases and mock interviews.

What is tested most in analyst interviews?

SQL is tested most often, followed by Excel or Python, basic statistics, a business case and communication.

How do I handle a case question?

Clarify the goal, break the metric into parts, segment the data, check quality, form hypotheses, test them and recommend an action.

What if I do not know an answer?

Say what you know, explain how you would find out and give a reasonable first approach instead of guessing.

Does preparation guarantee an offer?

No. Preparation improves your chances, but hiring depends on the role, competition and many other factors.

Sources and further reading

- SQLite documentation
- Python documentation
- Microsoft Excel support

About this PDF

These PDFs are study material for learning and revision. They are not a certificate, a degree or a promise of a job, and technology changes, so check official documentation for the latest details. Spot an error? Write to info@uncodemy.com and the trainer team will review it.

More free resources and courses: uncodemy.com | info@uncodemy.com | +91 98183 66550