AiBuildPath
CAREER GROWTH

2026 EDITION

SDET Interview Success Blueprint

Real-Time Questions & Answers

Master QA Automation, Coding, API Testing,
Framework Design and AI-Era Testing Interviews

THE PANEL ASKS

Q How would you test this checkout API?

Senior SDET round · API testing

THE CANDIDATE ANSWERS

checkout.api.spec.ts

```
test('checkout API', async ({ request }) => {
  const res = await request.post('/api/orders');
  expect(res.status()).toBe(201);
  expect((await res.json()).status).toBe('CREATED');
});
```

Status, schema, auth & DB check · 4 passed



Playwright | Selenium | API Testing | Java & Python
SQL & ETL | CI/CD & Git | Frameworks | AI & LLM Testing

Prepare → Practise → Mock Interview → Prepare with Confidence

WRITTEN BY
AiBuildPath Academy

198 Questions · 12 Parts · 35 Code Examples
Beginner → Advanced · Coding · Scenarios · 7-Day Plan

WELCOME

Welcome to your SDET Interview Success Blueprint

Thank you for choosing this guide. It brings together the questions SDET and QA Automation interviewers ask, clear model answers, and a practical plan to rehearse them — so you can walk into your next interview prepared, structured and confident.

What you have in your hands

198
Interview questions & answers
Beginner to advanced, across 12 technical parts

12
Focused sections
Coding, Selenium, Playwright, API, SQL, CI/CD, AI-era testing and more

7
Day preparation plan
A day-by-day revision schedule you can start today

15
AI practice prompts
Rehearse your answers with any AI assistant

Where to start

1. **Learn the four answer frameworks.** Read page 5–6 first — these frameworks shape every answer in this guide.
2. **Work through the parts that matter for your role.** Use the table of contents on page 4 and click any section to jump straight to it.
3. **Practise the code on your machine.** Every code block has a **Copy code** link, and each example is attached to this PDF as a file (open the attachments panel in Adobe Acrobat Reader).
4. **Follow the plan and test yourself.** Use the 7-day plan on page 50 and the mock interview scorecard on page 51 to find and fix weak areas.

Interviewers reward understanding, not memorised text. Read each answer, close the page, and explain it aloud in your own words with an example from your own project. Do that consistently and these answers will become yours.

AiBuildPath Academy Practical SDET and QA interview preparation

2026 EDITION

SDET Interview Success Blueprint — 2026 Edition

Real-Time Questions and Answers

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Master QA Automation, Coding, API Testing, Framework Design and AI-Era Testing Interviews

By AiBuildPath Academy — covers manual and automation testing, Selenium, Playwright, API testing, ETL testing, accessibility testing and QA leadership.

This blueprint gives you questions SDET interviewers commonly ask, model answers that show real experience, and a 7-day plan to rehearse them until they feel natural.

What's inside

Inside this guide	What you get
Coding for SDETs	Java and Python exercises interviewers use for automation roles, with clean solutions
Selenium + Playwright	Locators, waits, fixtures, parallel runs, tracing and framework design
API, SQL and CI/CD	REST, auth, contract tests, database checks, Jenkins pipelines and fixing unstable tests
AI-era testing	LLM app testing, evaluation metrics, hallucinations, RAG testing and responsible AI
Leadership and strategy	Estimation, risk-based testing, metrics and stakeholder questions
Practice tools	7-day plan, mock-interview scorecard and an AI prompt library

Difficulty legend: BEGINNER Beginner · INTERMEDIATE Intermediate · ADVANCED Advanced

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Table of Contents

The guide runs 53 pages: a welcome page, 12 technical parts (Part 11 is a scenario bank) and four practice tools. Every code example has a **Copy code** link and is also attached to this PDF as a file.

Page	Section (click to jump)	Questions
1	Cover	—
2	Welcome and where to start	—
3	Title page and what's inside	—
4	Table of contents	—
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24–27	Part 6 · API testing	20
28–30	Part 7 · SQL, database and ETL testing	14
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40–41	Part 11 · Real-world scenario questions	12
42–48	Part 12 · Practice questions and candidate reports	22
49	Common interview mistakes and fixes	—
50	7-day preparation plan	—
51	Mock interview scorecard	—
52–53	Bonus · AI prompt library	15 prompts
	Total	**198 questions**

How to Use This Guide and Answer Frameworks

Read each answer once, then close the page and say it aloud in your own words — interviewers reward understanding, not memorised text.

Three passes through the book

1. **Scan:** read only the questions and mark the ones you cannot answer in 30 seconds.
2. **Study:** read the model answers for marked questions and add one example from your own project.
3. **Rehearse:** use the 7-day plan, the scorecard and the AI prompt library to practise under time pressure.

Framework 1 · The Layered Technical Answer (for "What is..." and "How does...")

Layer	What you say	Example: "What is auto-waiting in Playwright?"
1. Definition	One clear sentence	Playwright waits for an element to be actionable before acting on it.
2. How it works	What happens behind the scenes	It checks the element is attached, visible, stable, enabled and receives events.
3. Why it matters	The benefit or trade-off	It removes most hard-coded sleeps, a top cause of unstable tests.
4. Your experience	A real, specific example	Hypothetical: "The team replaced unneeded sleeps with explicit waits."

Framework 2 · STAR for behavioural and scenario questions

- **Situation:** the project, team size and context in one or two sentences.
- **Task:** what you owned.
- **Action:** what *you* did — say "I", not "we", for your part.
- **Result:** a measurable outcome (time saved, defects caught, release risk reduced) and what you learned.

Framework 3 · Clarify–Plan–Code–Test for coding rounds

1. **Clarify** inputs, outputs and edge cases (empty, null, duplicates, very large input).
2. **Plan** the approach aloud and state its time complexity before typing.
3. **Code** with readable names; correctness beats cleverness.
4. **Test** your own solution with two normal cases and one edge case — an SDET who does not test their code loses points.

Framework 4 · Trade-off answers for design questions

Name at least two options, compare them on cost, speed, reliability and maintenance, then choose one and say what would change your mind. Senior interviewers listen for judgement, not a single "right" tool.

Worked Example · One Question, Three Answers

Q132 · Part 8 · page 33 — "What is your process for handling an unstable test?"

Answer	What the candidate says	What the interviewer hears
WEAK	"I just rerun it. If it passes, I move on."	No investigation, real bugs hidden, nobody owns the problem.
AVERAGE	"I check the logs, add a wait and run it again."	Some effort, but no root cause and no proof the fix works.
STRONG	"I reproduce it first: 50 runs, in parallel, under CI conditions. I collect the trace, logs and screenshots, find the root cause (timing, shared data, test order, locators, environment), fix it and prove the fix with repeated runs. Meanwhile it sits on a holding list with a ticket and an owner, so it never blocks the pipeline." *Hypothetical: "A checkout test failed 1 run in 8. The trace showed a click before the payment widget had loaded, so I replaced a sleep with a web-first assertion and ran it 50 times green."*	A repeatable process, evidence, ownership and a real example. This is Framework 1 at work.

Test Yourself · Can You Answer These in 30 Seconds?

Eight questions from eight parts of the guide. Say each answer aloud, then check the page shown.

Where to find it	Level	Question
Part 3 · page 15	INTERMEDIATE	What causes StaleElementReferenceException and how do you fix it?
Part 4 · page 19	INTERMEDIATE	How do you avoid logging in before every test?
Part 6 · page 26	INTERMEDIATE	What negative tests do you write for a POST endpoint?
Part 7 · page 28	INTERMEDIATE	Find the second-highest order amount (SQL).
Part 8 · page 33	INTERMEDIATE	How do you cut a 2-hour regression suite down?
Part 9 · page 36	ADVANCED	How do you persuade management to invest in automation?
Part 10 · page 38	ADVANCED	How would you test a customer-support chatbot built with RAG?
Part 11 · page 40	ADVANCED	Your nightly suite has 400 tests and 12% fail every night. What is your plan?

This is a free sample. The full guide has the model answer for every question above and 190 more, plus 35 copy-ready code examples, the 7-day plan, the mock-interview scorecard and 15 AI practice prompts. Unlock it at **aibuildpath.com/sdet-blueprint**