

Detailed Transcript- A Mock Interview Breakdown

[00:00:00.000 - 00:00:02.500]

Visual: The Microsoft logo, a square of four smaller colored squares, appears and then the word "Microsoft" fades in beside it.

Audio: [MUSIC PLAYING]

[00:00:02.500 - 00:00:06.000]

Visual: On a blue background, white text reads: A Mock Interview Breakdown. The Coursera and Microsoft logos are in the top corners.

[00:00:06.000 - 00:00:13.800]

Visual: A man and a woman sit across from each other at a desk in a high-rise office overlooking a city. Text overlay reads: What marks a candidate's response apart from the rest.

Speaker: In this video, you will watch a simulated QA job interview and find out exactly why the candidate's answer worked.

[00:00:13.800 - 00:00:21.000]

Visual: On-screen text appears on a blue background. Title: Predictable question in interview. Below, in a box, text reads: "How do you write a bug report?"

Speaker: One of the most predictable questions in any junior QA interview is, How do you write a bug report?

[00:00:21.000 - 00:00:28.800]

Visual: In an office, a woman interviews a man at a table. Text appears over the scene. First, "Think," then "Communicate," and finally, "Ready for teamwork."

Speaker: The way you answer it tells the interviewer how you think, how you communicate, and whether you're ready to work on a real team.

[00:00:28.800 - 00:00:33.500]

Speaker: We are joining a first round interview at a mid-sized software company.

[00:00:33.500 - 00:00:41.000]

Visual: Two headshots appear in circles. The first is a young man with dark hair, labeled "Mathew." The second is a young man in a white blazer, labeled "Manoj." The screen shows a simulated video call labeled "Virtual Meet" with Mathew and Manoj in separate windows.

Speaker: Matthew is the QA manager, Manoj is the junior QA candidate.

[00:00:41.000 - 00:02:35.500]

Speaker: Matthew: Thanks for walking me through your background. Here's my first technical question. How do you write a bug report? Walk me through your process.

Manoj: Before I document anything, I make sure I can reproduce the defect consistently. A bug report that can't be reproduced doesn't give the developer enough to work with. Once confirmed, I open Jira and write a specific title, not

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"Button broken" but something like, "Checkout button fails to submit form when the postcode field is empty on Chrome." Then I fill in four sections, the environment, the steps to reproduce, the actual result, and the expected result. I attach a screenshot or screen recording, whatever it helps. Finally, I assign a severity level. Does this block a critical task or is it cosmetic?

Matthew: Can you give me a real example?

Manoj: During a capstone project, I was testing a checkout flow. When a user left the postcode field blank and selected the submit button, the page refreshed silently. No error message, no feedback. The user had no way of knowing what went wrong. I documented it in Jira with exact steps, attached a screen recording, and classified it as a major defect because it blocked order completion. I logged it with full reproduction steps so that a developer could pick it up and action it straight away.

Matthew: That's exactly the kind of detail we need. Thank you.

[00:02:35.500 - 00:03:22.000]

Visual: A slide appears with the title "Why the answer worked." Four text boxes appear one by one. Box 1: "Purpose-driven approach. Explained the importance of reproducibility indicating he understands how QA work impacts the team." Box 2: "Tools named. Showed real, transferable experience by mentioning tools like Jira." Box 3: "Precise language. Used precise language and terms to show fluency in the topic." Box 4: "Concrete example. Gave proper example with details like defect name, user impact, documentation, and outcome."

Speaker: Now let's look at why Manoj's answer worked. First, he led with purpose. Manoj opened by explaining why reproducibility matters, not just what he does. That signals he understands the impact of his work on the team. Second, he named his tools. Mentioning Jira confirms real, transferable experience and it's a keyword that matters in ATS screening. Third, he used precise language. Terms like severity level, expected result, and steps to reproduce show fluency, not memorization. Fourth, he had a concrete example ready. He named the defect, described the user impact, explained his documentation and confirmed the outcome.

[00:03:22.000 - 00:04:31.000]

Speaker: Matthew: One more question. If you found two bugs on the same day, one that breaks the checkout flow completely and one that displays a small UI misalignment on the confirmation page, how would you prioritize them and what would you do first?

Manoj: I would prioritize the checkout bug immediately. It's a blocker. A user who can't complete a purchase is a critical failure, so I would document that first. Assign it a critical severity in Jira and flag it to the developer right away. The UI misalignment is real, but it doesn't prevent the user from completing a task. I would log it as a minor defect so it's tracked, but I wouldn't hold up the release cycle for it. Severity is about user impact. What breaks the journey and what's just cosmetic.

Matthew: That's a great distinction. That kind of prioritization thinking is exactly what we need on the team.

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[00:04:31.000 - 00:04:52.000]

Visual: A slide appears with the title "Why the answer is a success." A list of bullet points follows: Didn't recite definitions only, showed practical application. Explained how severity level can be used to decide priority. Gave proper reasoning for decisions. Showed he understands what development team needs.

Speaker: Now, let's look at why his second answer landed well. Manoj didn't just recite a definition of severity levels, he applied them to a real tradeoff. He named the user impact, explaining his reasoning and showed he understands what a development team actually needs: clear prioritization so work can move forward. That is the decision making pattern QA managers look for in a junior hire.

[00:04:52.000 - 00:05:13.000]

Visual: On-screen text reads: Decision-making pattern. On the right, a man with glasses writes at a desk. On the left, text appears. Title: Practice your answer. A bulleted list follows: Start with purpose. Name tools. Use precise language. Have a real example.

Speaker: Here is a question for you. Practice your own answer to how do you write a bug report? Start with purpose. Name your tools. Use precise language. And have a real example ready before you walk into the room.

[00:05:13.000 - 00:05:15.270]

Visual: The Microsoft logo appears again on a white background.

Audio: [MUSIC PLAYING]