Situation: You are in a real job interview for a QE/SQE/Tester position and they ask you following question. Do not use several minutes to think the answer, instead try to answer as you would answer in real interview situation (start answering in some 10-20 seconds). You can spend longer in writing the answer, but don't change the answer anymore.

How Would You Test a Text Field?

This_box Text Field

Junior tester or not a tester

Category definition: They know little or nothing about testing

Example answer types:

- Would give less that 5 type of inputs: e.g. only characters, numbers and funny character like "%&$
- Would assume that this is a unit test
- Would test it Automatically (and nothing else is said)
- Would talk about hardware requirements
- Would separate test design and executions as own tasks and even to dedicated people
- Would think this is really big task and requires several people to do it
- Would think that text field is only for showing the text (not looking like field on screen)

Tester / QE with functional testing experience

Category definition: They can quickly list basic things that need to be covered, but stop there and They can follow given tasks and requirements, but don't really search for all the facts

Example answer types:

- Lists 5 or more things from following testing ideas:
- alphabetic + number; special characters; double-byte characters
- fill up the field
- try to copy/paste to and from the field
- character limit
- correct character's shown
- erasing text
- does text fit to the field
- leave blank?
- line change with Enter?
- HTML
- SQL
- Lists 5 from above and then starts talking about processes (which this question was not about) like:
- Returning things to developers
- Entering bugs
- Retesting after developer has fixed the bugs

Excellent functional tester / close to real senior QE

Category definition: They can come up with huge amount of different ideas that would need to be tested, and they realize that there isn't necessarily time to do it AND They at some point notice that they actually want to know what this text field is?

- Example answer types:
- Instead of just listing the things in above category also understands things like:
- equivalence classes, boundary tests, positive and negative testing, fractions, ...
- finding requirements and limitations
- is there time/value/reason to test it more?
- different testing levels (e.g. for unit testing they would need to see the code)
- security testing (e.g. SQL injections, XSS, ...)
- Very long answers (almost like a book) that covers everything (well good that you know that, but there is shorter and better answer there)
- Answer includes talking to developers, product owners, customers, ...
- In addition to one or more of the 3 above, they at some point noticed that they actually need to figure out what this text field is all about

The real senior QE

Category definition: They answer back with questions and they can question everything first: ideas, requirements, business needs, assumptions, …

Example answer types:

- What is this text field about?

- My first thought would be "With the information given - in no way". But as this wouldn't be a very polite answer, I would start asking for more information about the context

This_box Text Field

DFEditor Text Field

http://maaretp.com

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Summary

QA = question asker

Test around your assumptions

More interfaces than what meets the eye

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