INSIDE STLC

PLAYWRIGHT INTERVIEW CHEAT SHEET 2026

5 questions hiring managers use to find out whether you know Playwright - or understand automation engineering.

THE INTERVIEW RULE: Don't just explain *what* Playwright does. Explain *why* you made the decision, the risk it addresses, and the value it gives the delivery team.

Q1	WHY PLAYWRIGHT OVER SELENIUM?
AVOID Weak answer: "Playwright is faster and more modern."	**SAY / EXPLAIN** Strong answer: "I choose based on context. For a modern web application, Playwright gives me auto-waiting, strong browser isolation, parallel execution, API + UI capabilities and straightforward CI/CD integration. Selenium is still valid, especially in established or legacy ecosystems. I'd choose the tool that reduces maintenance risk and fits the team."
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TESTING	Hiring manager is testing: Can you make a technology decision rather than repeat a tool comparison?

Q2	WALK ME THROUGH YOUR PLAYWRIGHT FRAMEWORK.
AVOID Weak answer: A list of folders, Page Objects and libraries.	**SAY / EXPLAIN** Strong answer: "I structure around feedback and maintainability. I separate fast critical checks from broader regression, keep reusable setup and test data out of individual tests, use fixtures where they add value, and tag tests so CI can run the right pack at the right point. The structure should make change cheap and failures easy to diagnose."
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TESTING	Hiring manager is testing: Do you understand why framework structure exists?

Q3	HOW DO YOU HANDLE FLAKY TESTS?
AVOID Weak answer: "I add retries / re-run it until it passes."	**SAY / EXPLAIN** Strong answer: "I investigate the cause first: timing, unstable selectors, shared state, test data, environment or a genuine product issue. I use Playwright traces and evidence, isolate the test and remove the root cause. If a low-value test remains unreliable, I'd quarantine it temporarily and make the risk visible rather than allowing red tests to become normal."
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TESTING	Hiring manager is testing: Do you debug like a quality engineer or hide failures?

Q4	HOW DO YOU USE API TESTING WITH PLAYWRIGHT?
AVOID Weak answer: "I only use Playwright for UI tests."	**SAY / EXPLAIN** Strong answer: "I use API calls where they give faster, more stable setup or verification. For example, create test data through an API, exercise the critical user behaviour in the UI, then verify the result at the most appropriate layer. I avoid forcing every check through the browser when a lower layer gives better feedback."
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TESTING	Hiring manager is testing: Can you design efficient tests across layers?

Q5	HOW DO YOU USE AI IN TEST AUTOMATION?
AVOID Weak answer: "AI writes my Playwright tests for me."	**SAY / EXPLAIN** Strong answer: "I use AI to accelerate boilerplate, generate test ideas, explain unfamiliar code and help diagnose failures. But I review the output and decide coverage based on product risk and business impact. AI can generate code quickly; accountability for whether the test is useful stays with me."
WHAT THEY'RE REALLY TESTING	Hiring manager is testing: Can you use AI productively without outsourcing judgement?

THE ANSWER FORMULA

1. Give your decision. 2. Explain the reason. 3. Connect it to risk / stability / feedback. 4. Give a real example.

REMEMBER

Commands show tool knowledge.
Trade-offs show engineering judgement.

Inside STLC Academy: Practical Test Automation with Playwright - build the framework, API/UI workflows, Git, CI/CD, portfolio project and AI-assisted automation you need to talk about these answers with real evidence.
insidestlcacademy.com | Interview answers should reflect your genuine experience. Use this sheet to structure your thinking, not as a script to memorise.