

# 30 KNN Interview Questions for Data Scientists

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K-Nearest Neighbours (KNN) and [tree-based algorithms](#) are two of the most intuitive and easy-to-understand [machine learning algorithms](#). Both are simple to explain and demonstrate, making them perfect for those who are new to the field. For beginners, it is crucial to test their knowledge of these algorithms as they are simplistic yet immensely powerful. These are commonly asked in interviews as well. Searching for KNN interview questions and practicing them can help one gain a deeper understanding of the algorithm and its practical applications. In this article we are explaining top 30 KNN interview questions!

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## Top 30 KNN Interview Questions

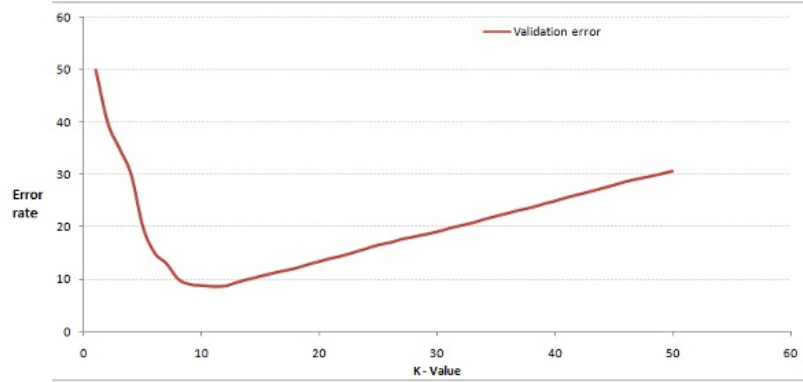
**1) [True or False] k-NN algorithm does more computation on test time rather than train time.**

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

**Solution: A**

The training phase of the algorithm consists only of storing the feature vectors and class labels of the training samples. In the testing phase, a test point is classified by assigning the label which are most frequent among the  $k$  training samples nearest to that query point – hence higher computation.

**2) In the image below, which would be the best value for  $k$  assuming that the algorithm you are using is k-Nearest Neighbor.**



- A) 3
- B) 10
- C) 20
- D) 50

**Solution: B**

Validation error is the least when the value of k is 10. So it is best to use this value of k

**3) Which of the following distance metric can not be used in k-NN?**

- A) Manhattan
- B) Minkowski
- C) Tanimoto
- D) Jaccard
- E) Mahalanobis
- F) All can be used

**Solution: F**

All of these distance metric can be used as a distance metric for k-NN.

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**4) Which of the following option is true about k-NN algorithm?**

- A) It can be used for classification
- B) It can be used for regression
- C) It can be used in both classification and regression

**Solution: C**

We can also use k-NN for regression problems. In this case the prediction can be based on the mean or the median of the k-most similar instances.

**5) Which of the following statement is true about k-NN algorithm?**

1. k-NN performs much better if all of the data have the same scale
2. k-NN works well with a small number of input variables (p), but struggles when the number of inputs is very large
3. k-NN makes no assumptions about the functional form of the problem being solved

- A) 1 and 2
- B) 1 and 3
- C) Only 1
- D) All of the above

**Solution: D**

The above mentioned statements are assumptions of KNN algorithm

**6) Which of the following machine learning algorithm can be used for imputing missing values of both categorical and continuous variables?**

- A) K-NN
- B) Linear Regression
- C) Logistic Regression

**Solution: A**

k-NN algorithm can be used for imputing missing value of both categorical and continuous variables.

**7) Which of the following is true about Manhattan distance?**

- A) It can be used for continuous variables
- B) It can be used for categorical variables
- C) It can be used for categorical as well as continuous
- D) None of these

**Solution: A**

Manhattan Distance is designed for calculating the distance between real valued features.

**8) Which of the following distance measure do we use in case of categorical variables in k-NN?**

1. Hamming Distance
2. Euclidean Distance

### 3. Manhattan Distance

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 3
- D) 1 and 2
- E) 2 and 3
- F) 1,2 and 3

**Solution: A**

Both Euclidean and Manhattan distances are used in case of continuous variables, whereas hamming distance is used in case of categorical variable.

**9) Which of the following will be Euclidean Distance between the two data point A(1,3) and B(2,3)?**

- A) 1
  - B) 2
  - C) 4
  - D) 8
- Solution: A**

$$\text{sqrt}((1-2)^2 + (3-3)^2) = \text{sqrt}(1^2 + 0^2) = 1$$

**10) Which of the following will be Manhattan Distance between the two data point A(1,3) and B(2,3)?**

- A) 1
  - B) 2
  - C) 4
  - D) 8
- Solution: A**

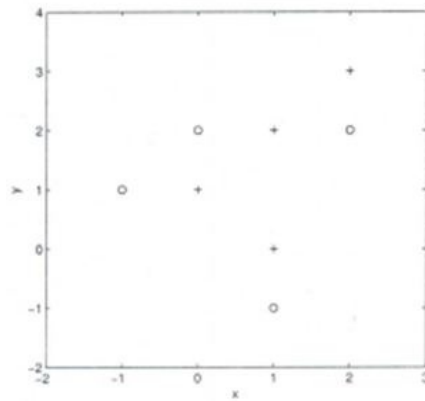
$$\text{sqrt}(\text{mod}((1-2)) + \text{mod}((3-3))) = \text{sqrt}(1 + 0) = 1$$

### Context: 11-12

Suppose, you have given the following data where x and y are the 2 input variables and Class is the dependent variable.

x	y	Class
-1	1	-
0	1	+
0	2	-
1	-1	-
1	0	+
1	2	+
2	2	-
2	3	+

Below is a scatter plot which shows the above data in 2D space.



11) Suppose, you want to predict the class of new data point  $x=1$  and  $y=1$  using euclidian distance in 3-NN. In which class this data point belong to?

A) + ClassB) – ClassC) Can't say

D) None of these

**Solution: A**

All three nearest point are of +class so this point will be classified as +class.

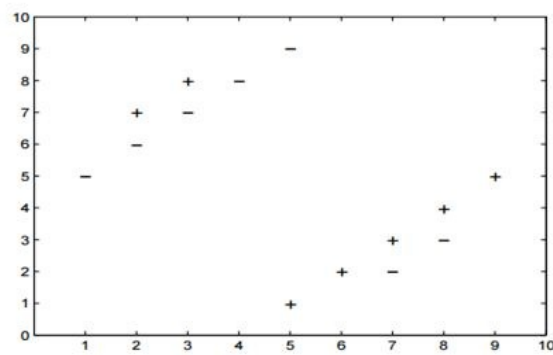
12) In the previous question, you are now want use 7-NN instead of 3-KNN which of the following  $x=1$  and  $y=1$  will belong to?

A) + ClassB) – ClassC) Can't say**Solution: B**

Now this point will be classified as – class because there are 4 – class and 3 +class point are in nearest circle.

**Context 13-14:**

Suppose you have given the following 2-class data where “+” represent a postive class and “o” is represent negative class.



13) Which of the following value of k in k-NN would minimize the leave one out [cross validation](#) accuracy?

- A) 3
  - B) 5
  - C) Both have same
  - D) None of these
- Solution: B**

5-NN will have least leave one out cross validation error.

14) Which of the following would be the leave on out cross validation accuracy for k=5?

- A) 2/14
  - B) 4/14
  - C) 6/14
  - D) 8/14
  - E) None of the above
- Solution: E**

In 5-NN we will have 10/14 leave one out cross validation accuracy.

15) Which of the following will be true about k in k-NN in terms of Bias?

- A) When you increase the k the bias will be increases
  - B) When you decrease the k the bias will be increases
  - C) Can't say
  - D) None of these
- Solution: A**

large K means simple model, simple model always condider as high bias

16) Which of the following will be true about k in k-NN in terms of variance?

- A) When you increase the  $k$  the variance will increase
  - B) When you decrease the  $k$  the variance will increase
  - C) Can't say
  - D) None of these
- Solution: B**

Simple model will be considered as less variance model

**17) The following two distances (Euclidean Distance and Manhattan Distance) have been given to you which generally we use in K-NN algorithm. These distances are between two points  $A(x_1, y_1)$  and  $B(x_2, y_2)$ . Your task is to tag both distances by seeing the following two graphs. Which of the following options is true about the below graph?**



- A) Left is Manhattan Distance and right is Euclidean Distance
  - B) Left is Euclidean Distance and right is Manhattan Distance
  - C) Neither left or right are a Manhattan Distance
  - D) Neither left or right are a Euclidean Distance
- Solution: B**

Left is the graphical depiction of how Euclidean distance works, whereas the right one is of Manhattan distance.

**18) When you find noise in data which of the following options would you consider in k-NN?**

- A) I will increase the value of  $k$
  - B) I will decrease the value of  $k$
  - C) Noise can not be dependent on value of  $k$
  - D) None of these
- Solution: A**

To be more sure of which classifications you make, you can try increasing the value of  $k$ .

**19) In k-NN it is very likely to overfit due to the curse of dimensionality. Which of the following options would you consider to handle such a problem?**

1. Dimensionality Reduction

## 2. Feature selection

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 1 and 2
- D) None of these

**Solution: C**

In such case you can use either dimensionality reduction algorithm or the feature selection algorithm

**20) Below are two statements given. Which of the following will be true both statements?**

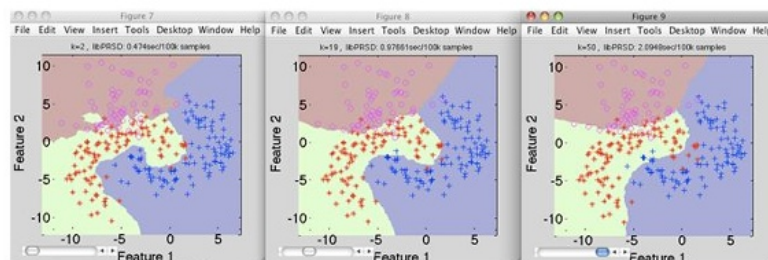
1. k-NN is a memory-based approach is that the classifier immediately adapts as we collect new training data.
2. The computational complexity for classifying new samples grows linearly with the number of samples in the training dataset in the worst-case scenario.

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 1 and 2
- D) None of these

**Solution: C**

Both are true and self explanatory

**21) Suppose you have given the following images(1 left, 2 middle and 3 right), Now your task is to find out the value of k in k-NN in each image where k1 is for 1<sup>st</sup>, k2 is for 2<sup>nd</sup> and k3 is for 3rd figure.**



- A)  $k_1 > k_2 > k_3$
- B)  $k_1 < k_2$
- C)  $k_1 = k_2 = k_3$
- D) None of these

**Solution: D**

Value of k is highest in k3, whereas in k1 it is lowest



22) Which of the following value of k in the following graph would you give least leave one out cross validation accuracy?



- A) 1
  - B) 2
  - C) 3
  - D) 5
- Solution: B**

If you keep the value of k as 2, it gives the lowest cross validation accuracy. You can try this out yourself.

23) A company has build a [KNN classifier](#) that gets 100% accuracy on training data. When they deployed this model on client side it has been found that the model is not at all accurate. Which of the following thing might gone wrong?

**Note: Model has successfully deployed and no technical issues are found at client side except the model performance**

- A) It is probably a overfitted model
  - B) It is probably a underfitted model
  - C) Can't say
  - D) None of these
- Solution: A**

In an overfitted module, it seems to be performing well on training data, but it is not generalized enough to give the same results on a new data.

24) You have given the following 2 statements, find which of these option is/are true in case of k-NN?

1. In case of very large value of k, we may include points from other classes into the neighborhood.
2. In case of too small value of k the algorithm is very sensitive to noise

- A) 1
- B) 2
- C) 1 and 2
- D) None of these

**Solution: C**

Both the options are true and are self explanatory.

## 25) Which of the following statements is true for k-NN classifiers?

- A) The classification accuracy is better with larger values of k
- B) The decision boundary is smoother with smaller values of k
- C) The decision boundary is linear
- D) k-NN does not require an explicit training step

**Solution: D**

Option A: This is not always true. You have to ensure that the value of k is not too high or not too low.

Option B: This statement is not true. The decision boundary can be a bit jagged

Option C: Same as option B

Option D: This statement is true

## 26) True-False: It is possible to construct a 2-NN classifier by using the 1-NN classifier?

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

**Solution: A**

You can implement a 2-NN classifier by ensembling 1-NN classifiers

## 27) In k-NN what will happen when you increase/decrease the value of k?

- A) The boundary becomes smoother with increasing value of K
- B) The boundary becomes smoother with decreasing value of K
- C) Smoothness of boundary doesn't depend on value of K
- D) None of these

**Solution: A**

The decision boundary would become smoother by increasing the value of K

## 28) Following are the two statements given for k-NN algorithm, which of the statement(s)

is/are true?

1. We can choose optimal value of k with the help of cross validation
2. Euclidean distance treats each feature as equally important

- A) 1
- B) 2

- C) 1 and 2
- D) None of these

**Solution: C**

Both the statements are true

**Context 29-30:**

Suppose, you have trained a k-NN model and now you want to get the prediction on test data. Before getting the prediction suppose you want to calculate the time taken by k-NN for predicting the class for test data.

Note: Calculating the distance between 2 observation will take D time.

**29) What would be the time taken by 1-NN if there are N(Very large) observations in test data?**

- A)  $N \cdot D$
  - B)  $N \cdot D \cdot 2$
  - C)  $(N \cdot D) / 2$
  - D) None of these
- Solution: A**

The value of N is very large, so option A is correct

**30) What would be the relation between the time taken by 1-NN,2-NN,3-NN.**

- A)  $1\text{-NN} > 2\text{-NN} > 3\text{-NN}$
  - B)  $1\text{-NN} < 2\text{-NN} < 3\text{-NN}$
  - C)  $1\text{-NN} \sim 2\text{-NN} \sim 3\text{-NN}$
  - D) None of these
- Solution: C**

The training time for any value of k in [KNN algorithm](#) is the same.

## Helpful Resources for KNN Interview

Here are some resources to get in depth knowledge in the subject.

- [Machine Learning Certification Course for Beginners](#)
- [Essentials of Machine Learning Algorithms \(with Python and R Codes\)](#)
- [Simple Guide to Logistic Regression in R](#)
- [Introduction to k-nearest neighbors : Simplified](#)

If you are just getting started with Machine Learning and Data Science, here is a course to assist you in your journey to Master Data Science and Machine Learning. Check out the detailed course structure in the link below:

- [Certified AI & ML Blackbelt+ Program](#)

# KNN Interview Question Tips

1. **Understand the Basics:** Before the interview, make sure you have a strong understanding of the basics of the KNN algorithm. Review the key concepts such as distance metrics, k-value selection, and the curse of dimensionality.
2. **Know the Applications:** KNN has a variety of practical applications, including image recognition, recommender systems, and anomaly detection. Make sure you have a good understanding of these applications and how KNN is used in each of them.
3. **Prepare for Technical Questions:** Be prepared to answer technical questions related to KNN, such as how to choose the optimal value of k, how to handle imbalanced data, and how to deal with missing data. Look up KNN interview questions online to get a sense of the types of questions that may be asked.
4. **Demonstrate your Problem-solving Skills:** Be prepared to walk through a problem-solving exercise using KNN. This could include a real-world scenario or a hypothetical problem. Walk the interviewer through your thought process and explain how you would approach the problem using KNN.
5. **Practice, Practice, Practice:** The best way to prepare for a KNN interview is to practice. Search for KNN interview questions and practice answering them. Consider working through example problems or participating in data science competitions to improve your KNN skills.

## End Notes

Being prepared for KNN interview questions is crucial for anyone looking to enter the field of data science or machine learning. Understanding the basics of the KNN algorithm, its practical applications, and how to handle technical questions can help you demonstrate your knowledge and problem-solving skills. By practicing KNN interview questions and working through example problems, you can improve your understanding and feel more confident during the interview process. With these tips in mind, you can approach KNN interviews with confidence and set yourself up for success in your data science career.

[Learn](#), [engage](#), [compete](#), and [get hired](#)!

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Article Url - <https://www.analyticsvidhya.com/blog/2017/09/30-questions-test-k-nearest-neighbors-algorithm/>



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I am a Business Analytics and Intelligence professional with deep experience in the Indian Insurance industry. I have worked for various multi-national Insurance companies in last 7 years.