

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND
SCIENCE

HYDERABAD CAMPUS



PU Chronicles

of

Placement Year 2018-19

IT

Name: Kshitij Grovor

Branch: Computer Science

Role: Software Engineer

Company: Joveo

Q.1 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

The experience of the test was subpar due to the hackerearth platform not being upto the mark and having multiple bugs.

If we go by difficulty, not only the test, but the entire process of Joveo was very difficult, one of a kind and extremely satisfying as the recruiters literally checked upon each and every thing which anyone could.

The questions, in my opinion, were easier to be cracked by a CS student as they all were related to dynamic programming.

The test was just coding. Unlike most of the companies, it had no weightage for verbal reasoning or mental ability.

Q.2 Any specific suggestion to non-CS students for cracking the online test?

Non cs students should focus on the topics covered in DAA, especially DP. Max-Min flow type questions should be understood thoroughly.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 4 exhausting rounds.

Recruitment Procedure:

Round 1

In round 1, they asked me my favorite topics. Here, the students should be careful. 'Favorite' should imply the topics which are at your fingertips and definitely not the ones which you like but aren't comfortable with thoroughly

I chose linked lists, arrays & binary search.

Round 2

Questions were based on memory management, C/C++ and Operating systems.

Round 3

It was a development round. Had to implement a basic version of the http protocol API in a language of my choosing.

Round 4

This round was taken by the CTO himself. He started timer and it was something like a rapid-fire round. He switched from basic technical questions and questions related to my life very quickly, one after the other.

Q.4 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

Maybe for clearing the cutoff, but that's it. The recruiters hardly cared about my academics. All they cared about my understanding in topics relevant to the job description.

Any more suggestions you'd like to give considering a student wishes to get selected in Joveo?

- Make sure you're extremely good at DSA and at least one other CS topic.

(OS/DBMS/Networks)

- Interviewbit, cracking the coding interview and hackerrank are good resources.

Personally, I preferred Interviewbit.

- College curriculum is not sufficient for DSA if you wish to get selected in Joveo. OS/DBMS is sufficient. Any specific suggestions for Pre-final year students & second yearites?

For pre-final year students, 2 months of dedicated study is ideal for any IT company. Use your summer vacation wisely. If you have an internship, be practical about how much time you can dedicate to placement prep without burnout.

Whereas, I'd again recommend the current second year students to use the PS-1 time wisely. Try to crack the summer internship tests. At least appear for them. Don't worry even if feel that your preparation has not been up-to-the mark. If nothing else, it will still give you invaluable experience about what is expected from you in online rounds / interviews.

Name: S Surya Rao

Branch: Computer Science

Role: Software Engineer

Company: ServiceNow

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 What is the ideal time to start preparations for IT placements?

The ideal time is now. Better start as early as possible. I started my preparation very late, i.e. in October. But by that, I imply competitive coding. I got IBM as my PS Station, and it has helped me in getting placed.

Q.2 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

Unlike most of the IT companies, ServiceNow didn't have any specific section related to competitive coding. The test consisted of two sections, viz. Aptitude & Basic CS.

1. Aptitude Test: Mainly, basic math. The level of questions can be compared to the aptitude questions asked in GRE/GMAT. I was once preparing for higher studies and hence, I was greatly benefited. I will recommend people to keep a track of your aptitude by solving questions once in a while. The test had many suckers. Suckers mean questions which appear to be easy and solvable but are very time-consuming. Instead of taking it on your ego, you should try to identify such questions and skip them. Do them if the time permits once you have attempted everything else. This again comes from practice. 2. Basic CS: This section had basic questions from DSA, DBMS, OS & OOP. One thing which I would like to point out is that I have observed that any IT company would definitely ask about Polymorphism, Encapsulation & Inheritance. Also, it is not sufficient to know the textbook definition. You should be able to relate these concepts with practical and some real-life examples as well.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 4 rounds. 3 Technical + 1 HR.

Round 1

It was mainly DSA. What came to my notice during all the interviews I've ever had is that the curriculum of DSA taught in our college doesn't cater to the demand of recruiter.

There were two generic DSA questions in this round. Such type of questions are easily available on geeksforgeeks and interviewbit.

Round 2

In this round, the interviewer was focussed on my internships and projects. Luckily, my work in IBM- my PS-II Station could impress him. During my PS-II, I worked on the development of Unique user friendly service to address bias detection in AI fairness. I believe that I made through this round because of my PS-II and projects.

Round 3

In this round, the recruiter first tested DSA. After I solved the question, he asked me to design LinkedIn which again I was able to satisfy him. However, I'll suggest following takeaways from this round

- Always take time, understand the question.
- If you don't get the question, engage the recruiter and try to think the solution parallelly.
- It tested OOP, DBMS & System Design. To be specific, you'd require to have knowledge of ER diagrams to solve such cases. Also, system design is something which you need to study on your own.

Round 4

It was an HR round. She was mostly trying to understand about my family background and my life beyond academics.

She was impressed to know that I had a minor in finance. I am neither encouraging, nor discouraging to do minors. I'm just saying that anything which gives a different dimension to your resume, increases your chances to clear HR rounds.

However in ServiceNow, everyone who reached the HR round was selected. Except one, who actually rejected the offer for some other company.

Q.4 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

Yeah. This is something which I always felt during all my interviews. I feel that whenever a recruiter is in doubt who to hire among multiple similar students, CGPA plays the role.

Any more suggestions you'd like to give considering a student wishes to get selected in ServiceNow?

- Practise aptitude.
- Revise OOP, DSA & DBMS (Sub-topics, as mentioned earlier) properly before appearing for interviews.
- College curriculum is not sufficient for DSA if you wish to get selected in ServiceNow. OS/DBMS is sufficient.

Any specific suggestions for Pre-final year students & second yearites?

For pre-final year students, choose your PS semester very wisely.

Students who are staying on campus during the first sem, guys you have 3 months left. This is the time to put your all in. Work hard & trust me you won't regret.

However for the students who are going for PS-II in first sem, it depends a lot on your PS Station. Don't think that the work you do in the PS will get you a job here. It'll definitely play a vital role as it adds to your resume as work experience but you still need to brush upon your competitive coding skills and conceptual knowledge of the courses to clear the interviews.

There's only one suggestion to second yearites, CG Badhao. Trust me, it does Matter.

Name: Movva Tanmay Krishna

Branch: Electronics & Communication

Role: Data Engineer

Company: Razorpay

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 When did you start preparing for IT placements?

I started preparing for competitive coding November, one month before the placements began. However, I had my PS-II in Samsung and it was easy for me to study for placements during my PS-II. Before PS-II, I knew basic C.

Q.2 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

The test was relatively easier if compared to other companies (little more difficult than Flipkart). The online test comprised of three sections.

A. Competitive Coding: It had three questions. First two questions were average in difficulty. One of them was on 'Trees' and the other was on 'Hashing' concepts. The third one was a little lengthy question which focussed on Arrays, Strings & Hashing. I solved the first two questions.

B. Aptitude: It was mostly quantitative & basic math. To relate to difficulty level, you should try to solve a mock GRE test. C. Basic OOP & OS concepts.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 5 rounds for me, 3 Technical + 1 HR + 1 interactive round with a BITS alumnus who wished to interact with all the candidates.

Round 1

This round began with interaction. The interviewer asked me my topics of interest. As a result, we talked about Cryptocurrency and ML for some time.

After the conversation, I was asked to design algorithm for Hotel Bookings. It comes under the category 'Greedy Algo' in DSA.

Round 2

This round can again be divided in two stages.

In the first one, I was tested on my code. They wished to see how well-structured are my codes. In the second stage, I was asked to explain a design problem, either by using OOP or functional programming language.

Round 3

Firstly, I was asked to implement A + B + C function. It means I had to draw light on all the fundamental things so that the function should compile & run.

Secondly, I was asked to mention all the possible problems in online payment transfer. OS concepts, sub-topic deadlock problems, were tested.

I was offered the job after this round.

Round 4

It was an interactive round. The BITSian alumnus asked me my preference in the roles offered by Razorpay.

Round 5

It was an HR round. As I was already offered the job, she just talked to me for a minute or two and I was done.

Q.4 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

Yeah. Not only CGPA, I feel that what is written on your resume also

decides to much extent about your result in the company. Most recruiters, as I have realised, don't care to ask if you have done any courses other than the college-curriculum.

Any more suggestions you'd like to give considering a student wishes to get selected in Razorpay?

- Learn System design as well.
- College curriculum is not sufficient for DSA if you wish to get selected in Razorpay.

Any specific suggestions for Pre-final year students & second yearites?

For pre-final year students, I would suggest them to be role oriented.

Also, make sure you have some CS projects on your resume. If you, for some reasons, couldn't take them in college, there are many sources available on the internet. Also, you can try to do projects which CS students get on your own. Bottom line is, do projects if you want good IT Placement.

Name: Machunuru Venkata Subbaiah

Branch: Computer Science

Role: SDE-Testing

Company: Razorpay

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 When did you start preparing for IT placements?

I started preparing for placements in August 2018.

Q.2 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

The test was on the easier side if I compare to other tests which I had given earlier.

The online test comprised of three sections.

D. Competitive Coding: It had three questions. First two questions were average in difficulty.

One of them was on 'Trees' and the other was on 'Hashing' concepts. The third one was a little lengthy question which focussed on Arrays, Strings & Hashing. I solved the first two questions.

E. Aptitude: It was mostly quantitative & basic math. To relate to difficulty

level, you should try to solve a mock GRE test. F. Basic OOP & OS concepts.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

It was different for everyone. For me, there were 3 technical rounds followed by an HR round.

Round 1

I was asked two questions.

The first question was an application of hash mapping. I had to convert a proper fraction to decimal, with a condition that the recurring digits are in parenthesis.

The second question was the reverse of the first one.

Round 2

It mainly focussed on System Design. I was asked to do automation of a game of cards.

Round 3

The interviewer asked me basic questions on OS, DBMS & ComputerArchitecture. My performance was okayish but I was able to impress him with a basic concept which he didn't realise while asking the question.

The code he gave would have thrown errors. As I figured it out, I was offered the role of Software Developer- Testing.

Round 4

It was an HR round. I was already offered before this round so it appeared to be a formality. She asked about my family background.

Any specific suggestions for Pre-final year students & second yearites?

Start studying as soon as possible.

Name: Sarthak Jain

Branch: Electrical & Electronics

Role: Software Development Engineer

Company: Amazon

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

1. The topics asked in the Amazon online test consisted of 20 conceptual MCQ questions including topics like OS, C++ Programming and DSA. The second half of the online test had 2 coding questions based on DP and Graphs.

2. The first half of the online test consisting of 20 conceptual questions was fairly easy. The questions were mostly direct and similar questions could be practiced from the Archives in GFG.

The second half consisting of coding questions were based on standard problems with some small twist. They were both of moderate difficulty Q.2 How should non-CS students prepare for Amazon Online Test?

All the students including, both CS and Non-CS, should practise MCQ questions given in GFG platform. The questions based on C++ programming, DSA and OS should be given more time during practise. This would be fairly enough for cracking this test with some basic knowledge of the theory of these topics.

To crack the second half based on coding questions, the non-CS students should start practising on platforms like interviewbit.com and GFG. The questions previously asked in Amazon and similar companies give a fair idea to gauge the difficulty of the online test as well the type of questions asked in the real test are very similar to the questions in Archive. Students should also start giving online contests on codeforces and codechef in order to get a feel of time-based coding and problem-solving.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 4 rounds each of around 1 hr duration.

Round 1 & Round 2

The first two rounds consisted of problem-solving questions based on typical standard DSA problems. The catch here is that the interviewers expect you to be good in writing clear production level code on paper which means minimum no. of lines possible and with no errors considering all the edge cases. The topics covered in these two interviews were Binary Trees, Graphs, Arrays, Strings, Stacks/Queues and DP.

Round 3

The 3rd round was the Conceptual round where questions from fundamental subjects of CS are asked. I was asked questions on Operating Systems. The interviewer thoroughly covered almost all the topics that are there in OS and expected clear understanding of each topic.

Round 4

The 4th round consists of the Bar-Raiser round which is conducted by Hiring Manager. This round focussed entirely on System-Design in which I was asked to design a platform similar to IRCTC with the given specifications. The interviewer was expecting proper logic for every decision taken and expected an efficient system design. In every interview, few questions on CV as well projects/internships were also asked.

Q.4 What all courses/electives & subtopics were crucial and decisive in your selection?

Important courses include DSA, OS, Computer Networks, DBMS and OOPS.

Questions from any of these fundamental courses can be assessed.

DSA- Graphs, B. trees, DP, Stacks/Queues, Arrays/String.

From all the other fundamental courses, questions can be asked from any broad topic. Important topics can be identified from GFG as well.

Q.5 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

CGPA doesn't play an important role I guess for getting into Amazon as long as the CGPA is above the mentioned cutoff.

Q.6 How should the preparation go for getting selected in Amazon?

Primarily students should focus on problem- solving DSA questions which are abundantly available on different online platforms like GFG and IB.

Secondly, students should also focus on theoretical concepts of fundamental subjects like OS, OOPS, DBMS and Computer Networks. They can identify important topics from the online platforms like GFG and then study them thoroughly from online lectures and curriculum textbooks.

Q.7 Does the college curriculum help in preparation for Amazon?

The college curriculum although is more than enough for the fundamental concepts round, it still cannot help to prepare you for coding as well problem-solving type questions. For cracking the online test as well as the problem-solving interview rounds, students should prepare separately.

Q.8 What is the optimal time to start preparation?

The correct time to start preparing according to me would be around the start of 3-1. Students who prepare for a complete year stand a real good chance for cracking interviews of high-paying jobs pretty simply.

Students should also have a proper practise of competitive coding so that they can solve the online test questions within the stipulated time.

Any suggestions for pre-final year students?

If the students are in their 3-2, then they should focus more on the competitive coding part. They should try to practise as many questions given on the online platforms as possible. Try giving few online coding contests as well to get into the feel of time-based coding.

Any suggestions for students in their second year?

Students in their 2-2 who are now going for PS-1, should start with identifying where their interest lies and which field they should start preparing for. If they want to go for IT jobs then they should start preparing for the internship season which starts right after PS. Preparation should include solving as many questions on GFG and IB as possible and giving few contests on CF and Codechef. Start exploring the STL library because I have seen a lot students who code in C++ not familiar with STL right about now. This would help you a lot in your coding tests.

Name: Yogesh Rajesh Khemka

Branch: Physics + EEE

Role: Software Development Engineer

Company: Amazon

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 How many rounds were there? Can you elaborate on each one of them?

1 online test + 4 Tech interview rounds. All knockout. No HR. Last tech round had some behavioral questions too.

A. Online Test

MCQs with negative focussed on OS, OOP, DBMS, DSA, bit of networks for a score of 80(afaik).

2 coding questions. 50 score for MST(Only optimised sol will pass all the test cases). 100 for a DP question.

Q.2 How was the overall experience of the test?

Being a non-CS student, had no idea about few mcqs, but did all the standard ones. Needs a good speed to be able to get all coding questions accepted. Q.3 How should non-CS students prepare for Amazon Online Test?

The biggest challenge many non-cs peers faced was they couldn't convert their logic to bug free code.

Do not just read articles in GFG, Leetcode, etc. If you have sufficient time give weekly contests in codeforces/codechef. Or SPOJ top 100 questions. Its very important that you have sufficient practice to debug your own code without knowing the test cases.

And they do read your codes during interviews, so make a habit to write efficient and modularized code.

Other than DSA make sure to read at least standard questions of OS and OOPS.

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 4 rounds each of around 1 hr duration.

Round 1 & Round 2

First 2 interviews were mainly DSA for me. Was made to write bug free code in A4 for few questions in first 2 rounds.

1st round: Started with easy standard questions like Rain water trap, traverse matrix in spiral, etc. Then a tough DP question.

2nd round: Again started with easy questions. Then had a 45 min discussion on

BST. Getting all the leaf nodes without traversing all the nodes.(With code)(Hint: Doubly linked list). Deleting an internal node in BST and maintaining the structure (with code). BST to heaps. Kept asking for better and better solution.

Round 3

Mostly grilling on OS, OOP : Virtual constructor,private constructor, Singleton class, Semaphores, encapsulation, static and friend keywords. Memory management. Asked questions on GPUs(because on Nvidia internship). Then 2 coding questions. Merging k linked list(wanted non-priority queue method). Topological sort.

Round 4

Started with behavioral questions. (Previous interviews, ppo, etc), few questions on resume projects then a design question: Design IRCTC. For next 4 months. Each station,train,classes, seats avail. Gave me 5 minutes to think about it. Rest of the interview was discussing it. Kept on adding new requirements. Grilled a lot in this one. Wanted proper hierarchy,no duplicacy of data, handling all the cases, modularised. Asked to write pseudo code. Which courses / electives are necessary to crack the interview? DSA,OS,OOP. Will only ask DBMS questions if you have done that course.

Q.4 What all courses/electives & subtopics were crucial and decisive in your selection?

DSA: Most important is all the data structures. Should have clear understanding of their working, time complexities, worst case scenario. There will be many unfamiliar problems in interviews and its important that you get to right DS for these problem statements. And there will definitely be few trees/graph and DP problems.

OS, OOP: Questions from these subject has no boundaries. Best if you complete one institutes's or Mooc/Nptel lecture series.

Other than these, have a basic understanding of ER diagrams and system design(for last round).

Q.5 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

CGPA definitely plays a role for most of the companies. But, can be compensated by good interview, at least in the case of Amazon.

Q.6 How should the preparation go for getting selected in Amazon?

Complete at least one of leetcode/interviewbit. Focus on data structures first.(Did DS from hackerearth tutorials). Other very good sources : Cracking the coding interview book. Geeksforgeeks.(Specially the must do sections).

Q.7 Does the college curriculum help in preparation for Amazon?

Did OS,OOPs as electives. Would say covers 80-90% of the probable questions in interviews.

Any suggestions for pre-final year students?

Now this is the best time for you guys to work on/finalize your projects. Make sure that you have at least 3 good projects in your resume. Projects good enough to have 20 min discussions. Better if they are uncommon, so that each candidate dont have same set of project in interviews(Happens a lot). And not all of them should be AI/ML/Blockchain. Have 1-2 strong non ML projects

especially those with ML internship.

Once you have done few projects , make a proper resume. People don't get/spend enough time iterating their resumes in last months of preparation. And believe me, resumes matter a lot.

Don't leave any major DSA/OS topic. There will be a lot a DP, tree/heap questions. But answering them correctly doesn't matter if you mess up simple implementation/stack/string question or couldn't explain polymorphism in interviews. Those are big red flags.

Ask your placed friends/seniors to take your mock interviews in final days of preparation.

Any suggestions for students in their second year?

You people have a lot of time in hand during PS-1. Spend time in competitive coding. 2-2 CS fundamental courses are most important for placements.

Companies which come in 3-1 for internships are the easiest and best bet for good placements.

Name: Roshan Babu Koottiyaniyel

Branch: Computer Science

Role: DevOps

Company: Razorpay

Recruitment Procedure:

Q.1 How was your online test experience? Can you elaborate upon it?

The online test consisted of 3 questions and certain set of questions pertaining to basics of DSA, OOP, OS & DBMS

Experience- It went pretty well, I was accustomed to test environment.

Q.2 How should non-CS students prepare for Razorpay Online Test?

If you can browse through all the courses of OS, DBMS, OOP & DSA, it should be sufficient

Q.3 How many interview rounds were there? What all topics were asked?

There were 4 rounds

Round 1 The first round was to check programming skills and grip on algorithms. How we solved mattered in this round.

Round 2

System Design Questions.

Round 3

The third round checked my knowledge in Computer Networks.

Round 4

A generic HR round.

Q.4 What all courses/electives & subtopics were crucial and decisive in your selection?

DSA, OOP, Computer Networks- realised that it was asked only in my case.

DSA is the most crucial course followed by OOP. They give a direct implementation / design based question from OOP.

Q.5 Did it ever feel like CGPA was a crucial thing during the interview?

Apart from the initial CG Cutoff, I never felt during the interview that they were bothered about my CGPA.

Q.6 How should the preparation go for getting selected in Razorpay?

The CS students should wrap up at least the basics while doing the courses.

Others should take the help from online sources.

Q.7 Does the college curriculum help in preparation for Razorpay?

For OOP & DBMS, yes. For coding part, you need to practise a lot where college can play no part.

Q.8 What is the optimal time to start preparation?

Varies person to person based on how much you know already. If you are clear with basics, a one month dedicated preparation is more than sufficient for clearing the interviews.

Any suggestions for pre-final year students?

It's time you should at least start with the coding part. Coding is not only important for Screening tests, but also plays a crucial part in interview processes.

Any suggestions for students in their second year?

You guys have a lot of time. One year is sufficient to get anything you want. Don't feel inferior to your batchmates who are better coders than you. I personally know a few people who were just beginners in their 2-2 but have cleared companies like Uber in their placement.

Name:Anand S Shankar

ID No:2014B1A70726H

Company:Oracle

Recruitment Procedure:

Screening Test: It consisted of a lot of MCQs on aptitude, logical reasoning, mathematics and a few coding questions. It was an online test for three hours.

Round 1: It was a technical round. I was asked to code to 'Check if a number is prime or not' and 'Check if a number is a power of 2 or not'. They were looking for the efficiency of code and the approach. Standard questions on linked list were also asked. We were also asked to solve some puzzles. Non-CS students had a lot more theoretical questions than CS students.

Round 2: I was asked the design of database schema. I took a piece of paper and drew the database design. It is always good to admit if you don't know the approach to any problem.

Round 3: We were asked to solve a few more puzzles. A good exposure to a variety of puzzles from different websites helps a lot. The puzzles were pretty standard in nature.

HR round: The interviewer tried to assess my personality and attitude to see if I fit the company. I was asked about my strengths and weaknesses. Since I was a dualite, they asked why I chose CS stream over Biology stream. They looked for honest answers and a willing-to-learn attitude.

Sources for Preparation:

I prepared for just about a month, primarily from GeeksForGeeks. I went through the interview questions for all topics. Two to three months should be ideal. Aptitude and activity puzzles should be given more importance. For Oracle specifically, topics like JAVA, OOPS and DBMS should be prepared thoroughly.

Name: Uttara Ravi

ID No: 2015A7PS0032H

Company: Oracle

Recruitment Process:

Screening Test: Three hours online test on aptitude, English and basic coding. There's no specific place to prepare for this round.

Round 1: The interviewer asked me my favourite topics. I answered JAVA and DBMS. He then asked about basic code for DBS, exception handling in JAVA, C parallels in JAVA etc. I was asked to write a code for prime number. They were looking for the efficiency in code rather than brute force method.

Round 2: It was a little trickier than the last round. There were a few questions about interfaces and system design. I was then asked about databases. It is important to not give up when you don't get the right answer. They looked for the approach you took for any problem.

Round 3: The interviewer saw SQL on my resume and asked me some basic questions on it. I was given a puzzle and asked to solve. The three rounds were not really demarcated when it came to the topics they asked from. Also, they did not become progressively difficult as one might expect. The questions seemed a tad random.

HR round: There were standard questions such as 'Tell me something about yourself', 'Why should we take you over other CS students?' and 'What are your strengths and weaknesses?'. You shouldn't sound too full of yourself, nor sound underconfident. It is always okay to admit not knowing a topic, and steer the interview to your topic of interest. For Oracle specifically, it is good if you tailor your answers a bit and tell them you code in JAVA. Also, it was important to never give off the vibe that you're strongly for or against a particular office location.

Sources for Preparation:

I started preparation pretty early around September. I relied only on Interview Bit. By December, I had more or less finished the relevant parts of Interview Bit. I wasn't very confident about DSA and didn't get much time to revise as I was busy with topics like JAVA, OOPS, SQL and OS. But clearing the shortlist for Arcesium gave me confidence I lacked in competitive coding.

Name: Sidhanth Krishna

Sector of interest: Computer Vision in deep learning

Company: Symphony AI

Profile: Associate Data Scientist

Recruitment Procedure:

- It was a resume shortlisting round followed by a Mental ability test (Simple ones).
- People who made through both of them moved to the interview round.
- There was one interviewer in my case. She first looked into my resume and asked questions related to my thesis(CV/DL). I was asked to explain the whole of my thesis in detail.
- They expect you to know what happens(In case of CV) to an image after convolution operation, what information does a filter(weights) hold in case of CNNs, the effect of using different loss functions to a model and comparing them(In my case MAE vs MSE), Outliers etc.
- Resume: Only put up skills that you're knowledgeable about. One good Deep Learning Project at least. Other projects under professors also help if you are clear enough about it to explain properly. The extracurriculars will help in the HR round to maintain a conversation.

- I did not have any Kaggle experience, but experience in it adds value to the resume.
- HR Round: HR round was a very peaceful one, have something in extracurriculars on your resume and it forms a very good basis for the conversation. I was asked if I was ready to go and work in Chennai, I denied it and had to give a reason to it, have a good answer prepared for that as well. Sources for Preparation:

- Data Science courses on campus, Kaggle website. Courses & Certification:
- ML, ML2, AI from campus. Tensorflow/Keras from external sources. Other relevant information:

- There were questions ranging from fundamental concepts in ML- like overfitting/underfitting, outliers, loss functions, bias-variance trade-off, Vanishing/Exploding gradients to the advanced concepts in deep learning like Deconvolution/Sub Pixel convolution operations, Tensor algebra (Properties like orthonormality, space and manifolds etc), Batch Normalization, Parametric ReLu, VGG net, ResNet, Generative Adversarial Nets and Lagrange Multipliers.

- Fundamentals of all topics must be very clear.

Name: Aditya Vidhate Sector of interest: SDE(with some Data Science)

Company: Symphony AI Profile: SDE Recruitment Procedure:

- There was an initial online test which was very basic aptitude questions and no coding questions.
- The interview round was very detailed even though the company was in a hurry to catch a flight.
- The interview round was around 45 minutes and they asked a lot of questions on OS, Java, and OOPS. They also spent considerable time checking my basics in Data Mining and ML.
- Resume: In terms of resume, They focused more on the projects section. Only write projects which you think you can explain properly at least.

Sources for Preparation:

- Kaggle for Data Science, Cracking the Coding Interview by Gayle Laakmann McDowell, Videos on Hackerearth. Courses & Certification:
- OS, OOPS, Java, DS

Other relevant information:

- The core skills they were looking for was theoretical and working knowledge in all the above-mentioned courses and clear knowledge of the basic algorithms.

Name: Trupti Shet

Sector of interest: IT

Company: Symphony AI

Profile: SDE

Recruitment Procedure:

- There was an online test that was majority Aptitude, and no coding questions.
- The online test was easy compared to the ones before it.
- The technical interview after that was very thorough. They asked about real-time examples of Trees Graphs Algorithms, OOPS Concepts, OS concepts.
- They asked for knowledge in Python, but I only knew the basics.

- They even asked to write the whole proper code for a sorting algorithm on the board. This could be because of my mechanical background as they wanted to test my abilities to the fullest.

- Resume: In terms of resume, they focused on the project side. For me, they focused on a personal project and course projects taken.

Sources for Preparation:

- Geeksforgeeks, Codeschool, Tushar Roy videos.

Courses & Certification:

- DSA, DBMS(from GATE lectures), OOPS, OS

Other relevant information:

- The core skills they were looking for in the candidates are a good hold of the major basic algorithms and basic concepts.

Name: Abhijeet Vichare

Profile: Data Scientist

Company: Merilytics

CTC: 9.7L

Branch: Chemical

Recruitment Process:

There were 4 rounds in total.

Round 1: Online Test. The test had 3 sections.

i) Coding Round: 2 questions both of which were to be coded in Python. Simple questions based on NumPy and Pandas were asked.

ii) Aptitude: 20-30 generic questions.

iii) Technical: 10 questions. Basic Data Science/Data Analysis and Logical Reasoning questions were asked. One had to be strong with theory and basics of DS.

For Aptitude and Logical Reasoning the placement training material was sufficient. Proficiency in python was required to solve the coding round.

Major Takeaway: Be clear with basic concepts and develop good coding skills. Only 8 students got qualified from the DS profile for the second round.

Round 2: Group Discussion. 2 groups of 4 students each was formed. The GD went for around 15 minutes. A simple case on market launch (2 options were given, 1 had to be chosen) was given which was dealt by the panel by discussing the cons & pros of the two options and then doing a cost-benefit analysis. **Major Takeaway:** Required analysis and not just intuition.

6 students qualified for the next round.

Round 3: Case Study. A case on market pricing strategy was given. It was given that you are an upcoming band and a royalty program for customers was to be designed. The interviewer gave subtle hints to guide case study. Similar questions were discussed in placement training which were helpful. **Major takeaway:** Practice good number of case studies.

Round 4: HR + Technical. simple questions like tell me about yourself, when did you start learning DS, why are you interested, PS project, what do you want to do in DS, how can you use DS in business activities, what do you know about the company, etc.

Important Projects & Concepts:

- ML, NLP, Speech Recognition, Supervised and Unsupervised Learning
- Project on Image Classifiers which used Convolution Neural Networks and TensorFlow
- Project done using Python on housing prices prediction depending on features
- PS Project on Decision trees and Random Forests to predict efficiency of an industrial process

Major Takeaway: Be clear with projects and the courses done. 3 students were finally shortlisted.

Sources of Preparation:

- Did ML & AI course from Coursera.
- Went through various blogs and online courses
 - Datasciencecentral.com
 - Kdnuggets.com
 - 101.datascience.community
- Used Kaggle to participate in competitions and practice different questions.
- Did Crash Course on ML offered by Google. The course taught how to build your own model and leverage its uses for various purposes.
- Used various online forums to get exposure to different types of problem statements.

Name: Udit Gupta

Branch: ECE

Profile: Software Engineer

Company: MakeMyTrip

CTC: 18L

Recruitment Procedure:

Only CS & Phoenix students were allowed to sit for the process. There were 3 rounds in total.

Round 1: Online Test. Time Duration: 1.5 hrs.

Section 1: MCQ based questions covering concepts of DSA, OS, OOP, DBMS and networks.

Section 2: 2 coding questions to be solved on Hackerrank platform.

1. A question based on graph to be solved using BFS concept.
2. A TRIE based question.

Major Takeaway: Be clear with basics and code efficiently.

10 students (including extended list) were shortlisted for the further rounds.

Round 2: Technical Interview.

The interviewer discussed the candidate's resume and projects meticulously. The candidate's PS project was on the OS virtualisation program 'Docker'. The interviewer wanted to test the candidate's expertise on the container manager platform and had asked him to explain its'

internal architecture in detail. Since the company was planning to implement the same software, the interviewer delved into the depths of the software.

The next question was on how the candidate would install an application in 100 slave systems using a single master server. The candidate had proposed a model using smart DevOps concept of Ansible automation. Further, the interviewer quizzed the candidate on another PS project which implemented Nagios concept.

Major Takeaway: Be well versed with all your major projects and its applications & uses.

Round 3: Technical Interview 2.

This round focused on the coding knowledge (i.e. Data Structures and Algorithms) of the candidate. It had 5 questions.

1. Can we override object class in Java?
2. A Linked list question on finding the intersection point of two linked lists. Typical questions which can be found on [geeksforgeeks.com](https://www.geeksforgeeks.com).
3. A code snippet for Dynamic Method Dispatch to be written in JAVA.
4. Asked the minimum number of jumps required to reach the end of the array. The interviewer accepted a $O(n^2)$ code but was ready to give extra points for a $O(n)$ time complexity code.
5. Implement min stack in $O(1)$ time.

Round 4: Hiring Manager Round. This was a mix of HR and Technical interview. There were two interviewers - An HR manager and the manager of the team in which the candidate would be recruited.

HR questions: Questions like tell me about yourself, why did you choose this particular campus of BITS, company information, etc. A few challenging questions included

1. Describing a moment of where the candidate was given utmost importance in his PS workplace. This was asked to check the leadership skills of the candidate.
2. Among the previous companies the candidate had sat for, he was asked to rank the companies and tell them why he would choose their company over others.
3. What were the new things the candidate had explored during his time at his PS workplace?

The technical questions included explaining the simplified debts algorithm and general trees concepts.

Sources of Preparation:

- Company Archive from [geeksforgeeks.com](https://www.geeksforgeeks.com)
- General coding questions from [interviewbit.com](https://www.interviewbit.com) and [leadcode.com](https://www.leadcode.com)
- Courses: OOPs, OS, DSA, DBMS, SQL
- YouTube channels: My Codeschool, Tushar Roy, CSDojo

Advice for juniors:

- Start the preparation as early as possible, ideal time would be during the beginning of PS (if the student doesn't want or isn't getting a PPO).
- If a student wishes to start from scratch he/she should ideally begin preparation 6 months prior to the placements. If he/she has done courses on campus, 2-3 months preparation will suffice.
- Following a strict schedule everyday.

- Staying calm & confident during the interview.
- Keep Smiling!

Name: Aayush Chaturvedi

Company: Publicis Sapient

Branch: Chemical

Profile: IT

Recruitment Procedure:

1. Tech Round - 90 min round having 2 Coding Questions and 25 MCQs based on Aptitude, OOPs, DBMS, OS and Networking domain.

2. Technical Interview

- Questions were based on the internships and projects mentioned in Resume and concerned more towards usefulness and approach for the project rather on implementation.

- Data Structure question was asked, which was solved using Hash Maps and Indexing but interviewer focused more on Indexing.

- The optimisation problem was given

- Since had done OOP, so was asked where and how OOP concepts were used in all the projects that were done by Aayush.

3. HR Round (2 people on panel)

- Being from a chemical background, most questions were based on why and how did he work on so many CS courses and projects.

Skills and Courses :

1. System Design - Helped in the interview where your approach to solving real-life problems was

was tested PS experience helped a lot. Those projects also reflected well for the profile.

3. DSA, DBMS, Discrete Mathematics, Data Storage, Data Mining

Inferences:

For a Chemical student trying for IT profile, it's better to start developing your profile little early, from second year in college itself. This shows your passion for the field and reflects well during the interview. Be ready to face hardships while looking for projects, internships and even placements as your major isn't in sync with IT profile but try to stick around and adjust to give your best.

Link: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/publicis-sapient-on-campus-for-the-role-of-asde-ii/>

Name: Kautilya Phani

Branch: EEE

Profile: Software Development Engineer

Company: Xilinx

CTC: 15.5L

Recruitment Process:

Round 1: CV shortlisting. The process was open only to Phoenix students. Everyone above 7.2 CG was shortlisted for the online test.

Round 2: Online Test. There were 3 sections.

1. Quantitative Aptitude
2. Hardware- Questions were from Flipflops, latches, DD profiles, MOSFETS
3. Software- the most important section and had highest weightage. It had questions from trees, pointers, OOPs, OS and other minor CS questions.

Round 3: Technical Interview. There were 3 sub rounds with a time duration of 30 mins each.

1. Simple questions like How to solve the error? How to update if there is any error?
Coding questions based on pointers.
2. Asked to write code using linked lists. Questions on stacks and queues. A few questions on C programming and OOPs concepts.
3. Questions on trees, differential binary trees, binomial representation, graphs, basic conversions from binary to hexadecimal and vice versa.

Round 4: HR Round.

Simple questions like tell me about yourself, company information, interests, why a software job despite having a hardware profile, experiences at PS etc.

Sources of Preparation:

- Geeksforgeeks.com and interviewbit.com
- Solve questions on Hackerrank regularly.
- CS courses like DSA, OOPs, OS done on own.
- Youtube lectures.
- Ideal time to start preparation. 2 months before placements begins

Name: Harsh Nagda

Company: Goodera

Major: EEE

Profile: IT (Product Engineer)

Recruitment Process:

1. Online Test

- CS basics (OS, OOP, Networking) & 3 Coding questions

2. Technical Interview

- Consisted of two rounds

- For first, asked to write proper code of 2 questions. Second, asked questions on Machine Learning as had done a project in ML and were focusing on approach for the problem, not complete code.

- Asked questions on extra-curricular, what all you did other than academics. Interests in any other field.

Skills and Courses:

OS, DSA, DBMS, Networking, Web Development Projects reflect excellently on Resume.

Inferences:

1. Start coding practice at least 2 months before the placement season.
2. Do as many good projects as you can. Experience helps a lot there.
3. Focus on how to write code in a cleaner and shorter way.

Name: Mukund Kothari

Sector of interest: Software Engineering Roles

Company: Microsoft

Profile: SDE

Recruitment Procedure:

- The Online Coding had 3 Questions (2, 3 and 5 marks), of increasing difficulty, to be done within a span of 90 minutes.
- The questions given were randomised, probably selected from a question bank, with different candidates getting questions from different topics.
- The Online coding round, 1:30 mins, 3 Questions of increasing difficulty, I solved all 3 of them.
- Group Fly round ~ 1 hr. 2 Questions were asked, their solution to be hand-written (both proper code and/or pseudo-code were allowed). I solved both.
- Technical Interview 1 ~ 1:30 mins. Questions were asked from almost all subjects. DSA, OS, DBMS, OOPS, ML, IR, Software Engineering. Points in my resume was discussed.
- Technical Round 2 ~ 1:30 mins. This was more of a HR + technical round. Questions were asked from my resume, from my projects to the work done and technologies used during my Internships. Some more technical questions followed, along with System Design questions.
- HR + Design Round ~ 1:30 mins. This round consisted of questions involving designing almost all aspects of any given product. Questions were asked from Networking, and OOPS, with a major focus on how to tackle problems from different viewpoints.
- The main point of any resume is to get the interviewer interested in you. Projects and Internships were focused on mainly and I was required to explain in detail everything I had mentioned in my resume.

Sources for Preparation:

- Geeksforgeeks
- Interviewbit

Courses & Certification:

- DSA, OS, DBMS, OOPS, ML, IR, Software Engineering

Other relevant information:

- CGPA is important only for clearing the initial cutoffs, otherwise, it's just a number. However, if you have a low CG, you may be asked to explain why and what have you done to offset that.
- The main thing that the interviewers look for are clarity of concepts, confidence, and the ability to both speak and listen clearly. You should have a strong understanding of subjects and should be able to convey the same effectively.

Name: Pranav Kumar Asthana

Company: Arcesium

Profile: Software Developer

Recruitment Procedure:

- Online test -> Technical interview 1 -> Technical interview 2 -> Technical interview 3 -> HR interview
- Online test (1hr30min): 2 coding questions (1 easy/medium, 1 very hard) + aptitude MCQs
- Technical interview 1 (~45min): Easy/moderate DSA question with implementation, theoretical questions on OOP (+ implementation in Java/C++), DBMS and OS (Prepare theory from courses properly) + questions on resume
- Technical interview 2 (~30min): 2-3 moderate/difficult DSA questions (standard questions), conceptual questions on DBMS indexing
- Technical interview 3 (~1hr30min): 5 difficult DSA questions with implementation in pseudo-code (Requires a good understanding of algorithms).
- HR interview (~20min): General questions about hobbies, interests, family, life + questions on resume (to verify whether I have done the projects mentioned in the resume)

Sources of Preparation:

- Interview-bit: This is one of the best sources for practicing DSA. It gives you points for each question. You get a higher score for solving the question in less time and with a more efficient algorithm. This pushes you to solve in less time and write efficient code. As you solve more questions, you progress in levels and that gives it a game-like feeling.
- Geeksforgeeks.com: For DSA, use this when you are stuck, or need help understanding an algorithm. For other subjects, this website gives you question lists for revision/last-minute prep. This website also has company-specific interview experiences and question banks which are useful when you are preparing for a specific company (during placement season).
- Course slides: Course slides were useful to quickly scan through the entire course content, and spending time on areas that are not clear.
- Hackerrank.com: Practice a little on this platform just before placements start to familiarize yourself with the platform, as this is what most companies use.

Courses:

DSA, OOP, DBMS, OS (Very few companies ask questions from Computer Networks)

Other relevant information:

For DSA, start practicing online with time limits 1-2 months before placements at least. For other subjects, if you have an understanding of the concepts, revising 1-2 weeks before placements is

sufficient.

Name: Shubham Jha (2015A3TS0288H)

Company: Indeed

Profile: Site Reliability Engineer (Hyderabad)

Recruitment Procedure:

- ☐ Online coding test. 3 questions-
 - o 1 easy (slight modification of 0-1 knapsack)
 - o 1 medium (dp based)
 - o 1 hard (don't remember)
- ☐ 4 rounds of interview-
- ☐ The interviews were timed. Each interview was ~50 mins long. Needed to solve the question within the time limit.
 - o Questions were System Design type and required knowledge of DSA and OS.
 - o 1 st round – Design a system for storing and retrieving large number of boolean array. Some conditions were given.
 - o 2 nd round – Design a build system. Some package dependencies and some other conditions would be given. Initially, the assumption was that you have an infinite number of processors present. After I solved that, they asked me how I would modify my solution if I only had a fixed number of processors available.
 - o 3 rd round – Had to design a system for shuffling music in a random manner. After solving that, I was given some more constraints and had to modify my solution to accommodate those.
 - o 4 th round – This round was with the Indian Head of Engineering. This round was about ~30 mins long. We discussed the projects I had put on my resume. I asked questions about the company. We talked about the various projects that were currently going on in the company. Discussed about my role. I did not have to solve any questions in this round.

Sources of Preparation:

- Geeksforgeeks, InterviewBit, Hackerrank

Courses:

- No online MOOCs.
- CS electives on campus – OOP, OS, Cloud Computing, Information Retrieval, Data Mining,
- Machine Learning, SelTCS, Computer Graphics.

Other relevant information:

- Practice system design questions.
- Do a bit of research on the company before the interviews. Prepare a few questions about the company to ask the interviewer.
- Do try to think out of the box. If you come up with a solution and you're not sure if it might work, discuss it with the interviewer. Discuss its advantages and potential flaws.
- Don't worry if you don't remember the correct syntax of a language or the usage of inbuilt functions. Mention it to the interviewer. In my case, the interviewer asked me to write the pseudocode.

Name: Gedda Sai Aiswarya

Company: Phenom People

Profile: Product Development Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Written Test (Eligibility: Open for all branches, CG Cutoff-6)

- Test was based on Programming basics, Aptitude(MCQ's) and a Coding question.
- Coding was evaluated based on the logic written.

Question: There are n number of robots moving on line, L-represent robot moving to the left, R-represent robot moving to the right, S-means still. There will be possible collisions between robots moving Right and Left, Right and still, Left and still. Find the number of freely moving robots on the line after all the possible collisions.

Technical Interview

- Was asked to explain the answers(MCQ's) that I have given in the written test.
- Also, to code the logic written for the coding question based on any programming

language.

- Asked few questions on finding factorial based on Dynamic Programming, Linked Lists, String reversal and sub strings better be thorough with DSA.

HR Interview

- Was asked a few questions on OOPS concepts, work management and expectations.

Sources of Preparation:

- GeeksforGeeks, Hackerrank, Code Chef, IndiaBix (for aptitude)

Courses:

DSA, C Programming, OOPS, Scripting(Advantage)

Other relevant information:

- I was actually preparing for core(electronics) so it was a bit difficult to practise for IT companies yet able to cope up, so plan wisely according to your preference.
- In HR round be very considerate while answering the questions, be confident and truthful

while answering the questions in all the rounds, try at least to approach the answer they will be helping you if needed.

- Most Important-Be Patient!

Name: Kayithi Vahila Reddy

Company: Mathworks

Profile: Software Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Online Test

- Included 2 Coding questions and several MCQs
- Questions were from a mixed bank so everyone got random.

Technical Interview 1

- Basic questions on language you choose for me it was Java
- Short code and output based questions were asked and emphasis was on how you solved the question and why was the output the way you got it.

Technical Interview 2

- Resume based questions were asked mostly focussed on PS-2
- You should be able to talk about your work in PS or any project you worked on.

- Questions were asked on the flyer they gave at the start of the interview process. It was about organisation and EDG programme they had.

HR Interview

- They asked usual HR questions like talk about yourself and where you see yourself in 5 years.
- I was asked how I react to feedback I got about my personality. They were looking for how you take criticism and it was kind of a fit round.
- Why shifting from ET background to an IT job was also a question I was asked. You should have clarity on such basic personal questions.

Preparation

- You are required to know basics of computer science and application of concepts like trees, disjoint sets, sorting.
- OOPs textbook was very helpful and all my concepts were clear.
- For practise do basic topics from geeksforgeeks and interviewBit.
- I started preparing for IT since my second year and assignments in the following courses were very helpful to get used to applying concepts
 - DICO, DSA, OOPS
- In my opinion 2 months are enough to prepare for IT placements if you have done the relevant courses throughout 2nd and 3rd year.

Experience from companies before getting placed

- Competitive coding could have helped in case of Service Now interview.
- Oracle was a lengthy process where I had my interview pretty late. So be prepared to have patience and keep your composure throughout the placement process.
- One piece of advice I will give with respect to IT interviews is to BE PREPARED and Be motivated. Know the type of questions asked in an interview and application of basic concepts. Knowing the question beforehand gives us confidence and it's better to be well prepared since most of the questions are on common concepts like trees.

Name: Rishabh Singh

Company: Upgrad

Profile: Software Development Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Resume Building

I wanted to make my resume very short and precise as I had heard that the interviewers spend very less time looking at the resume which turned out to be true. I kept three projects on my resume and prepared most of the questions that could be asked in the interview related to those projects. This was helpful as I was asked many questions related to my projects during my technical interview. I also felt that sometimes the interviewers look for certain keywords in the resume and so it is important to include the key words related to the field of the project.

Online Test

Most of the companies focussed on testing the students based on their understanding of data structures and its application. The level of these questions well above average in most cases and I learnt that the key to solving such questions is to take some time in thinking the question through and trying to find an optimised solution instead of jumping to solutions involving brute force. I felt that the time given for solving these questions is sufficient to think and structure the answer clearly on paper before coding. Practice on online platforms plays a very important role as it increases the speed of debugging and also helps in preventing syntax errors.

Technical Interview 1

My first technical round was mainly focussed on my resume. a lot of questions (technical as well as non-technical) were asked on my projects. Discussion on my projects went on for around half an hour. Technical questions involved questions related to data structures, operating systems and object-oriented programming. As most of my projects were in Java, there were a lot of questions on object-oriented programming. Non-technical questions in this round involved the impact of my projects in my internship on the company and a few puzzles.

Technical Interview 2

This interview was with a technical manager in the company. This interview was mainly focussed on implementation and working on largely used applications such as Google Maps and Amazon and the algorithms that can be involved in building such applications on a basic level. Most of the questions in this round were targeted to test the overall thinking process of the student.

Technical Interview 3

This round was a telephonic interview. Since most of my work was in Java, most of the questions in this round were focussed on core Java concepts.

HR Interview

Usual HR questions were asked.

Preparation:

The basic understanding of key subjects such as data structures, operating systems, databases and object-oriented programming is necessary. According to me, practice plays a very important role when it comes to coding. The variety of questions practiced on a given topic strengthens its understanding as well as helps in thinking quicker.

I mainly studied data structures and Object-Oriented Programming from GeeksForGeeks and InterviewBit and I studied Operating Systems and Databases from YouTube videos and w3schools.

Experience from companies before getting placed

I sat for many companies like Oracle, Amazon , FlipKart etc. Every online test and interview process was a learning experience and I improved over the course of these processes as well.

Name: Siddhant Kumar Patel

Company: Postman

Profile: Software Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Online Tests

- Codenation: Brutal (4 questions, 45 minutes)
- Joveo: 2 DP question (doable), 1 probability question
- Amazon: 1 DP and 1 Graph (easy ones), MCQs were easy
- Postman: easy MCQs, 1 implementation, 1 Graph (really difficult)
- Publicis Sapient: Apti (20 min. 20 questions, practice matters), 1 Hashing, 1 Stack

Resume Building

- Never hype anything, write only what you have done
- Describe your projects and work experience using points (it's hard to read paras)
- Start your points with words like Implemented, Developed, Enhanced etc.
- List out different skills, libraries or frameworks used in a specific project or work experience.
- Mention your Github/Gitlab repository of project (if possible) and link of your deployed project (links of apps in playstore, or website link)
- Ask 2-3 of your friends to review your resume

Technical Interview 1

- Basic questions like TCP/UDP difference, components of HTTP protocol, output of a simple switch case snippet, difference between linked list and array (practical cases where you would use them)
- Non tech questions: what courses you have done, how was your online test, why you want to be a developer

Technical Interview 2

- Post-mortem of resume, questions were framed from each word of my resume
- Detailed discussion of work experience and projects
- Detailed discussion of why selecting a specific library/framework over other that is being used in a project, same thing for programming language used
- Some questions regarding scraping

Technical + HR Interview

- They tested understanding of how the tools, libraries or frameworks work behind the scenes that I have used
- Some open-ended HR like questions:
 - o Hobbies
 - o If given an option what domain of computer science you would select
 - o Difficulties that you faced while getting started with open source
 - o Favourite company or any culture of a company that you like
- This round tested basically how genuine answers you are giving (questions asked on my hobbies)
- They were looking for how robust you are when it comes to taking up work with new learning opportunities and how flexible you can be.

Courses and Certifications:

Python and Java from Edx (honor code, don't think that had any impact on recruiters)

Preparation:

- NPTEL Naveen Garg IIT Delhi for Data Structures and Algorithms
- Java the Complete Reference for Java, OCA Java SE 8 Certification by Mala Gupta
- CBT Nuggets for SQL
- GeeksForGeeks placement track (mostly), InterviewBit (little bit) for placement practice
- Codechef long challenge.
- For DP: Tushar Roy video series on DP, it explains the problem solving, but doesn't explain why this particular way is used to solve the problem, you won't get the intuition), that part is covered by GeeksForGeeks explanation
 - o After placement I got to know about Atcoder DP contest (covers 26 classical DP questions) for DP practice.

Experience from companies before getting placed:

Interview : Just Amazon

Learning experience - I was really nervous (as this was my first interview), don't think of the topics that you have not prepared well (you will get nervous and won't be able to perform well). Just be confident on what you have prepared. Practice writing code in paper. You should write clean code.

Miscellaneous Advice

- Don't dream about things that you would do after getting placed (during the interview process or online tests). Just focus on the current thing or the next process. The moment you hope for something good and that doesn't happen you get disappointed. Positive state of mind is very crucial to give your best in an interview.
- When asked about resume, you own the narrative so you should play your strong cards. Sell yourself modestly when you can.
- Maintain interaction in an interview, keep asking questions if you don't follow. Sometimes you get to know constraints which the interviewer was deliberately keeping away. Ask about the complexity at which question is to be solved.
- You can't prepare cover all the online questions of (GeeksForGeeks, Interviewbit, or Leetcode). So, you should be confident that you can solve unseen questions. How do you get confidence? Competitive coding is the answer (that's why codechef long challenge, although Codeforces, hackerearth short challenges would be more fruitful).
- Take help from others while preparing, I was really lucky to be guided by my legendary seniors, friends, juniors and last but not the least my club (Crux :)).

Name: S. Pranavi Gayathri

Company: Toshiba

Profile: Associate Software Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Resume Building

Focus on projects. Try to elaborate them if you have less number of projects. Make sure you're good at the skills you mention in your resume.

Online Tests

- The test had three sections. 25 reasoning/aptitude questions (MCQs), 15 questions on C(MCQs) and 1 coding question.
- Aptitude section was difficult compared to other tests I've taken. Most of the questions were based on pattern completion.
- C language section was also not so easy. There were some output questions and some questions on theory(definitions).
- Coding question was not very difficult. If you have a bit of coding experience you shouldn't have a problem.

Technical Interview 1

First round was completely on the C language. Some questions were on theory like what are storage classes etc and some puzzles (ex: find the quotient when you divide a number by 8 without using normal arithmetic operators and loops). No coding questions.

Suggestion: Go through the puzzles and quizzes on C in [geeksforgeeks](#) and [tutorialspoint](#).

Technical Interview 2

In the second round, I was asked about everything I mentioned on my resume. I was asked to explain all my projects in detail.

Computer architecture-Basic stuff. What is pipelining, what are the various types of hazards in pipelining, and how would you resolve them.

Microprocessors: Questions on arm architecture. Just the basics.

Suggestion: Make sure you know every word you've written on your resume.

HR Interview

Usual HR questions were asked.

Preparation:

These are the courses that I would suggest to focus upon.

- C language
- Computer architecture
- MicroP/Embedded Systems
- [Geeksforgeeks](#) and [tutorialspoint](#) for puzzles and brushing up concepts.

Experience from companies before getting placed

Sat for a lot of companies. Be very clear about the basics, in any subject. Bit of coding practice is necessary, even if you're not targeting IT companies.

Analytics/Consulting

Name: Krishna Prasad N

ID No:2015A2PS0518H

Company: Lowes

Recruitment Process:

First, there was a screening test. It was an online test that could be taken from the room itself. It consisted of only verbal and logical reasoning questions.

In the first round, they asked a guesstimate question. The question went like this: 'A delivery service company is opening service in Bangalore. How much delivery charge should be charged to its customers?'. They also asked why I wanted to become an analyst and asked a lot of questions about the projects in PS-2.

In the second round, a guesstimate on market strategy was asked. 'If one wants to open a tourist homestay in Munnar, what factors should be considered?'. They also asked why I was going for a non-tech role after Civil Engineering, and why not a Master's. I told them that my passion lies in this field only.

The third round was a HR round, in which they tried to get to know me. I was asked about the kind of books and movies I liked. They also presented a case on the spot and asked me to solve it.

All the rounds were tele-interviews.

Sources for Preparation:

I did not prepare specifically for this company. However, for non-tech companies in general, a book called 'Case Interviews Cracked' by IIT-B alumni and Victor Cheng videos on YouTube helped.

Name: Onkareshwar Mishra

Branch: Mechanical

Profile: Consultant

Company: Thorogood

CTC: 11.5L

Recruitment Process: There were 2 on-campus round and then the shortlisted students were flown to the company office at Bangalore for the next 4 rounds.

Round 1: Online Test

2 Sections. Time Limit: 1 hr.

i) General Aptitude: 45 mins were allocated for this section. One had to be fast and accurate.

ii) Verbal: 15 mins for writing an essay and answering a comprehension passage.
Major Takeaway: Good Essay writing required and speed for solving quant questions.

30 Students were shortlisted for the next round.

Round 2: HR/Stress Interview

Time Duration: 30 mins.

General Questions like tell me about yourself, run me through your CV, why consultancy, what are the various tools used by consultants etc. It was a fit for role kind of interview rather than a skill based interview. Various scenario based questions were asked to access the attitude and behaviour of the candidate like if a mentor assigns a task, how would go about solving it etc. The interviewer tested the all round skills of the candidate and how he could work and lead a team. Company knowledge was also tested, one had to go through the website information to answer the questions.

Major Takeaway: Sell yourself in the best way possible.

10 students were shortlisted for further process.

Bangalore Office

Round 3: Time Duration: 2 hrs. A data-based case study was given to be solved in the stipulated time. The candidate had to use optimisation models to solve the case. The candidate also had to make a ppt and present it to the interviewing panel.

Round 4: Time Duration: 20 mins. A small case study had to be solved. The problem statement was that the candidate was a broker and he had to choose a house depending on the requirements of a family. Information of available flats were given and the candidate had to ask questions to solve the case.

Round 5: Time Duration: 45 mins. Group Activity. All the 10 shortlisted candidates had to sit together and make a detailed report on constructing a new airport in an imaginary island. The data pertaining to population, geographical location, economic conditions etc were given and the group had to come up with a clear plan for the construction of an airport including the diagram, road plan, flight strips, number of operating flights, seats in the passenger area etc.

Every candidate was assigned a company official who was seated in the peripheral of room and noted down every point made by the candidate.

Round 6: HR Round: Time Duration: 30 mins.

Again a standard HR round. This interview checked the confidence and attitude of the candidate. Constructive feedback on the previous rounds was given. Anyone with good fluency in English could easily pass this round.

8 from the remaining 10 were the final selects.

Sources of Preparation:

- Case interviews by Victor Cheng (Youtube channel)
- Caseinterviewscracked.com
- Guesstimates practiced online
- Aptitude - Placement material

Advice for Juniors:

- Solve as many case studies as possible. The more you practice the better it is.
- Start early. Read Case in Point by Marc Cosentino well before the placement seasons starts.
- Ideal Preparation time for final revision would be around 2-3 weeks before the interviews.
- Try to hone your extra skills like R/Python/SQL. Use online sites like Unacademy and Coursera. These add value to your CV and provides you with an extra edge over others.
- Be confident and calm during the interviews. Do not panic if your unable to answer any question, try to explain the approach or accept that you don't know and will learn it.
- Improve your communication skills, all non-tech companies look for people with good fluency in english.

Name: Swarnima

ID No: 2015A1PS0715H

Company: Thorogood

Recruitment Process:

The first round was an aptitude round, with basic questions in logical reasoning and quant. The second round was an interview round in which they asked a few questions about myself and focussed on the points mentioned in my resume. They paid a lot of attention to my internship experiences, with regards to the challenges I faced, the initiatives I took and the feedback I received. They asked about situations when my opinion was different from that of the team and if I managed to convince them. They also asked whether my feedback was incorporated in the system. I was honest and told them that since I was an intern, although they appreciated my feedback, it was not possible for them to incorporate them due to the constraints they had.

The third round was very rigorous and it took place in the company's office in Bangalore. It was called the Assessment Centre Round. It was subdivided into four rounds.

- a. First round was a case study based round. It was quantitative, and approach was more important than the final answer. It was for two hours and we had to present our results. I was able to complete the case as I didn't focus on getting the right answer, as much as I devoted to finding the right approach.
- b. Second round was an interesting scenario based round. We took up the role of a real estate broker looking to find the ideal location for a family. Factors such as proximity to school, work and safety of locality had to be taken into account. We had to ask the mentors the right questions to get as much information about family and rate the properties as A, B, C etc in order.

- c. Third round was a group activity round in which we had to design a radical airport by a group discussion. Our team playing skills were tested.
- d. The last round was the HR round. They tried to put me in stressful situations and checked if I could maintain my composure. I was asked a lot about PS-2 experience. I had to imply that the work in PS-2 was actually mundane while not being too honest.

Sources for Preparation:

Coming to the preparation aspect, honestly, only aptitude can be prepared for. The other skills cannot really be learnt from books or websites. Communication is the most important skill for any non-tech company. Also, keep your cool and try to be spontaneous in all activities.

Name: Achyuth Reddy Ravula

Sector of interest: Non-tech

Company: Karvy

Profile: Executive Associate to Chief Operating Officer(Combination of Tech & Non-tech.

Recruitment Procedure:

- The written test was conducted for all the roles offered. It consisted MCQs on basic maths and logic and on coding and software industry.
- After this, a GD round was taken to gauge communication skills.
- After this, the first interview round was taken by the COO of the company, who asked the details about my PS2 at Amazon and the project there.
- He tested for speed math and case questions in which I was required to think quick and innovate on the floor.
- The next round was taken by the CTO, who asked case questions on business development; he gave a case where he gave a finance company in the initial stages and asked how he would suggest them to move forward and bring it up.
- Resume: In terms of resume, the focus was on the projects done during PS and you should be able to properly explain whatever you have done. Sources for Preparation:
- Learn basics of up and coming technologies, workings and business models of e-commerce and similar companies.
- Work on communication skills and confidence in speaking.

Courses & Certification:

- All CS courses for the SDE part of the role. Proper communication skills and knowledge of up and coming technologies and how they work.

Other relevant information:

- The role I got is very specific and they made it up on campus. So the specifications required for this role might not be useful for everyone. But in general, the skills are the skills required to crack a basic Non-Tech with technology role.

Name: Sai Vivek Peddi

Sector of interest: Technology with management

Company: Karvy

Profile: Associate Product Manager

Recruitment Procedure:

- The written test was very basic questions on logic, maths and basics of coding.
- The GD round was mostly to check your speaking ability and leadership qualities and a lot of people got eliminated from there.
- The interviews were to check if you can handle tense situations. So staying calm and answering the questions with a clear mind was given a lot of value in the interview, rather than fully answering the question in time.
- Resume: In terms of resumes, they focused on my extracurriculars, which made for a good topic for conversation with the interviewer.
- The rapport you made with the interviewer made a lot of difference and the confidence and ability to speak clearly and explain the projects and work you have done played a crucial role.

Sources for Preparation:

- Interviewbit, Geeksforgeeks

Courses & Certification:

- They don't look for any specific course as such.

Other relevant information:

- The core skills the company was looking for was to be able to solve problems under pressure.
- They also valued proper communication skills as the role was a client facing one.
- Also, they looked for an understanding of up and coming technologies and their working.

Name: Aditya Viswakumar

Sector of interest: Core Electrical

Company: Karvy

Profile: Product Developer

Recruitment Procedure:

- The written test was easy and very basic math and logical problems.
- The GD was to gauge how well you could explain your ideas and to how well you talk.
- The interview round was a standard IT interview with basic standard coding questions about named algorithms.
- The interviewer also asked questions about life on campus and kept it as a conversation.
- The next round was more of a conversation and I was asked normal questions about campus life and what I have done on campus for the last for years.
- Resume: In terms of resume, the interviewer focused on the project section and expected me to be clear on the projects mentioned and be able to explain them properly.

Sources for Preparation:

- Standard named algorithms, Geeksforgeeks, Hackerearth

Courses & Certification:

- DSA, OOPS, OS, DBMS

Name: Harika Kothapalli

Sector of interest: IT

Company: Deloitte

Profile: Business Technology Analyst

Recruitment Procedure:

- The online test consisted of a logical reasoning section, english, basic quantitative reasoning and 2 coding questions.
- The first sections of the test were standard questions and pretty easy.
- The coding part of the was 2 random coding questions which were also standard. I was not able to complete both the questions, but still got shortlisted because of a good score in the non coding section.
- The non coding part was given more importance than the coding section in terms of selection.
- Preparation for CAT is a huge boost to attempt the non coding sections.
- The Technical interview had multiple panels in which the questions were mostly resume based.
- They asked one coding question which was pretty basic and standard.
- Resume: The panel asked questions about the projects mentioned. They also asked one question per skill mentioned in the resume.
- Most of the students passed the 1st interview round and passed onto the HR round.
- In the HR round, the interview was conversational and they made the candidate lead the conversation, ie, how our experience in PS was, what we did on campus etc. Then there was a discussion on the POR's; how the experience in the role was and how it impacts society.
- The HR wanted to see people think out of the box and keep them engaged. Sources for Preparation:
- The interview app(for HR rounds), Geeksforgeeks, CAT material.

Courses & Certification:

- DSA, OOPS.

Other relevant information:

- The core skills that they were looking for are communication skills and basic coding skills. Another important skill they looked at is the ability to work under pressure.

Name: Mahak Parwana

Sector of interest: Data Science/Analyst

Company: Deloitte

Profile: Data Science(Analyst)

Recruitment Procedure:

- The online test consisted of Aptitude test, English, logic and 2 coding questions.
- Speed math is important in getting past the non-coding section which has more weight than the coding part.
- The non coding part was given more weightage and it was pretty easy compared to CAT level questions.
- The coding questions were simple enough but rather lengthy and i did not complete either of them fully. As the non coding part was given more weightage and I had a good score their, I was shortlisted.
- In the first round of interviews, questions were asked in terms of academics and as my subject of interest was ML and Deep Learning, the interview was led in that direction.
- Puzzles were asked along with questions about the basics of data science concepts in terms of theory and practice.

- The second round was a telephonic interview with a veteran Data Scientist in their firm who asked questions about the practical applications of data science; he posed a question about a company which needed to improve its sales and how I would use data science to do so. More questions followed on the real world applications of data science.

- Resume: In terms of resume, the interviewer focused more on the projects that I have done and asked to explain it to them in detail. Sources for Preparation:

- Kaggle experience helps, in addition to the ML, AI courses done on campus, Probability and Statistics course(for interview) helps.

Courses & Certification:

- ML, AI, DSA, OOPS

Other relevant information:

- The core skills they were looking for were coding skills(Python also), knowledge of libraries and good enough communication skills.

Name: P V N S Viswanatha Kashyap

Sector of interest: Management with Technology application

Company: Deloitte

Profile: Business Technology Analyst

Recruitment Procedure:

- The online test was verbal aptitude, mathematical skills, logical and verbal reasoning. There were also two coding questions.

- The aptitude questions weren't too hard. Just some basic preparation helped me get through. Coding questions however needed some prior knowledge.

- I used the online resources that the PD made available to us for preparation for the online test. Mock aptitude tests, previous questions for similar roles etc. were very useful for the online test.

- I had a total of two rounds. Each round was around 15-20 minutes. They asked me around 8-10 questions in each interview out of which I answered all. Most of the questions were general questions about my projects and my interests mentioned in the resume.

- For the interview, I made use of the previous questions and mock interviews.

- Resume: They went through the whole of my resume. Didn't focus on anything in particular. My on-campus formal project and my PS2 project were my stand out projects and I tried to use the experience I gained from working on those projects to answer some of their questions.

Sources for Preparation:

- Mock aptitude tests, previous questions for similar roles etc provided by PU for the online test helped.

- For interview rounds mock interview taken during training in PU helped.

Courses & Certification:

- DSA, OOPS

Other relevant information:

- The interviewers couldn't ask me anything very specific because the role they were hiring for was a very dynamic role. Thus, they were testing us on our communication skills, our behaviour, and our ability to adapt on the spot to various circumstances. So I'd say focus on those for these types of roles.

Name: Apoorv Ranjan

Sector of interest: Finance

Company: Deloitte

Profile: Business Technology Analyst(Finance)

Recruitment Procedure:

- The online test consists of 4 sections: English, Logic, Mental ability and Coding.
- I wasn't able to complete both of the coding questions(working for a few test cases for the first question), but got a good score in the first 3 sections.
- The technical interview started off with questions on the PS section of the resume and school and college life etc. He asked to explain what the work was at PS(JPMC).
- He went on to ask 1 simple coding question which I solved promptly.
- The HR round questions were mostly about school and college life, and hobby based questions. When asked whether I would get the job in JPMC, I answered with a no.
- Resume: In terms of resume, the interviewer focused on my PS projects and work, and all the projects mentioned(SAPM, DRM projects). Financial terms on the resume made the interviewer interested to ask about them more. Sources for Preparation:
- CAT preparation is a big jump for the non coding part of the online test.

Courses & Certification:

- SAPM, FM, C

Other relevant information:

- The core skills required for the role are communication skills, the skill to keep the interviewer engaged and basic knowledge of coding(1st year C at least)

Name: Sajal Bansal

Company: Orbees

Major: Chemical

Profile: Consulting

Recruitment Procedure :

1. Online Test

- 1.5 hours of Aptitude Test + 1.5 hours of Case Study (Internet use was allowed)
- Aptitude included Quantitative, Verbal and Logical Reasoning (Speed is important)

2. Group Discussion

- General Topic (Recent Political, Social News)
- Put your point and listen to others as well. Be moderate and articulate.

3. Final Interview

- A panel of 3 people including the CEO of the company as well along with HR.
- Long interview (at least 1.5 hr)
- Asked 'Tell me about yourself', BITSAT & JEE rank, College Life Questions to begin followed by the Case Study.
- Guess Estimates, thinking on the spot. Approach to the problem and framework was appreciated than exact right answers.

Preparation:

Solved lots of Aptitude Tests. Practice Case Studies from Case on point, Victor Cheng's videos. Spoke to seniors.

Inferences:

1. Aptitude and Reasoning skills are very important for Non-Tech Roles. Practice from sites sites links and quiz links provided by Placement Unit.
2. Practice for GD with friends at least to develop an approach towards speaking in a group
3. Books like Case Interview Cracked help a lot.
4. PS helped as it was based on Pharma consulting and Orbees does Medical technology Consulting hence was aware of basic scene there. Do good background study of the Company beforehand.
5. Don't get depressed after rejections, stress will only hamper your performance.

Name: Akash Patil

Company: Orbees

Branch: Mechanical

Minor: Finance

Profile: Consulting

Recruitment Procedure :

1. Online Test

- 1.5 hours of Aptitude Test + 1.5 hours of Case Study (Internet use was allowed)
- Aptitude included Quantitative, Verbal and Logical Reasoning (Speed is important)
- Aptitude Test was tricky, so good practice is required. Focus on your strengths rather than solving the entire thing.

2. Group Discussion

- 1.5 hours long
- General Topic (Recent Political, Social News)
- Put your point and listen to others as well. Not about how well do you know but how well you coordinate with others.
- Accept when you are wrong.

3. Final Interview

- The panel of 3 people including the CEO of the company as well along with HR.
- The resume was finance oriented so asked questions on how and why do you want to try consulting now.
- Case Study Questions
- Guess Estimates, thinking on the spot. Approach to the problem and framework was appreciated than exact right answers.
- "What did you learn in your internships ?" and Your strengths and weaknesses type questions: Quick Mathematics Skills. Solve Case studies.

Inferences:

1. Aptitude and Reasoning skills are very important for Non-Tech Roles. Solve a good number of quizzes and try to strengthen quick maths skills.
2. Attend training sessions organised by PU, helps you understand different logics that people put up, get to know where you stand and can prepare accordingly.
3. Pay attention during ppt round for the company and try to get points for the interview

there. Creates a good impression and helps with company-specific answers also.

4. Take 30 seconds and think and answer anything in the interview, don't knee-jerk as that can take the interview to some other direction.

5. Don't get depressed after rejections, stress will only hamper your performance.

Name:Akshay Shreekumar

Company: EXL Services

Profile: Business Analyst

Recruitment Procedure:

Online Tests

It was on cocubes and questions are of moderate difficulty

Resume Building

Remove the blank spaces in between and avoid spelling mistakes. Try to keep the relevant projects or internship on the top. If you are trying for multiple profiles create multiple resume for each.

Technical Interview 1

There were 2 guesstimates, a case study, a probability type and questions on any projects related to Analytics

Technical Interview 2

Mostly on probability and permutations and combination. Didn't have a HR round

Technical + HR Interview

- They tested understanding of how the tools, libraries or frameworks work behind the scenes that I have used
- Some open-ended HR like questions:
 - o Hobbies
 - o If given an option what domain of computer science you would select
 - o Difficulties that you faced while getting started with open source
 - o Favourite company or any culture of a company that you like
- This round tested basically how genuine answers you are giving (questions asked on my hobbies)
- They were looking for how robust you are when it comes to taking up work with new learning opportunities and how flexible you can be.

Courses and Certifications:

Python and Java from Edx (honor code, don't think that had any impact on recruiters)

Preparation:

Workshop on guesstimate and cantilever labs resources which were mailed. Basic requirements in terms of skill sets to get the role according to me were- Logical reasoning and proficiency in probability

Experience from companies before getting placed:

Sat for companies like Lowes and TE. I learned how to answer interviews properly. You should talk with self-confidence and answer the questions confidently. Before going for the interview try to summarise about the projects that you have done related to that concerned company.

Name: Krishna Raj

Company: EXL Services

Profile: Business Analyst

Recruitment Procedure:

Resume Building

Just make sure that you know about the stuff which you've written in your resume, whether you do it or not. Don't make it too long or too short and try to keep in a page.

Online Tests

Basic quant and verbal questions similar to placementseason website questions.

Any standard CAT preparation book will cover everything required for the test.

Technical Interview 1

The interviewer asked me to tell me about myself. I answered and based on that, since I'm from kerala he asked me to guess-estimate the number of people renting a houseboat. I did a mathematical analysis and in-fact all the courses mentioned in my resume were math related courses. I presented myself as a guy who is good in math using my resume. There was a standard market entry case study about ola starting something similar to uber eats, anyone preparing from "case interviews cracked" will solve this easily as it's a typical market entry case.

Technical interview 2

In the 2nd interview a case study was asked. This was done by a different interviewer. He was to the point in everything. The case study was about an insurance client of the company who was trying to launch a new policy in the market. He asked me to build a mathematical model. I used normal distribution curve and some basic prob-stat stuff to make out some stuff. This case study was difficult but i just kept doing things which i felt was right based on common sense. I didn't get a definite model but I convinced him about my approach. Then he asked me 2 standard puzzles which you can find on geeksforgeeks website.

Preparation:

Case interviews cracked by a group of seniors from IITB was very useful to study about case studies. Practicing case studies with friends helps.

Experience from companies before getting placed:

I had a lot of companies in which i was rejected in GD. Indus insights was one company in which i got rejected just before HR. GD is the most random thing in your entire placement process. There's no fixed method to crack it different companies look for different qualities and most of the time you won't know why you got rejected. Having said that, GD is important to get into the final rounds of many processes. Try to speak sensibly and don't give away your chance to speak to others. Try to begin or conclude the GD even if your input was minimal. You'll have to be patient because placement process is random until a certain extent. Don't get depressed just keep going, keep doing your preparations believing that 'your time will come' and it'll come for sure.

Core

Name: Mahati D

ID No: 2015A3PS0338H

Profile: R&D Engineer(ET)

Company: Synopsis

CTC: 13L

Recruitment Process:

Round 1: Online Test:

There were 3 sections. Time limit was 1 hr. This was a common test for both Software and R&D profiles. Students were given the choice to apply for either one or both the profiles.

i) Core: 15-20 MCQ questions covering MEC, ED, DD, ADVD and Analog were asked. The questions were of moderate difficulty, not the regular textbook questions. Adept knowledge on all these topics was required to solve them.

ii) Logical Reasoning: 15-20 simple MCQ questions.

iii) Coding: Simple MCQ questions on Linux was asked. Scripting questions were also given which required proficiency in C language.

20 students were shortlisted for the next round. Depending on the scores, the company themselves shortlisted the students into the 2 profiles.

Round 2: Technical Round:

The interview covered the entire course of ADVD with emphasis on the digital part. The questions asked were to analyse the understanding of basic concepts, hence every question required detailed explanation.

Time Duration: 1.5 hrs.

- CMOS
 - Functioning of a CMOS inverter in detail
 - Why CMOS - Advantages
 - Passing 1 and 0
 - Metastable state in detail
 - A flip-flop down to the transistor level
 - Gates in CMOS
 - Timing analysis definitions and questions on setup time, hold time, clock skew
- Company Info
- Circuits from company workplace.
 - Given circuits from their work asked to explain the functioning (outside of course but can be done using basics and subtle hints from the interviewer)
- Slight HR
 - Few questions about the work done in previous internships and about other interests and hobbies

4 students were shortlisted (only R&D profile).

Round 3: HR Round:

Basic HR questions focusing on the non-technical aspects such as management and communication skills. The HR wanted to know the candidate's plans for higher education and why she was interested in the particular profile. Time Duration: 30 mins.

Though the candidate was the only one to get shortlisted post this round, she had to undergo 2 more technical rounds.

Round 4: Technical Round 2:

Time Duration: 15 mins

This round had 2 different interviewers.

Questions asked:

- ADVD (again)
- Timing Analysis - difficult questions
 - Hold time, setup time, skew in a specific circuit.
 - Timing constraints
 - How to overcome timing violations
- Questions where the candidate had gone wrong in the online test and whether those concepts were clear or not.
- A few devices questions on CMIS latchup and layout design in CMOS for Basic gates

Round 5: Technical Round 3:

Time Duration: 10 mins

- Basic Electronics questions.
- Ohm's law, wheatstone bridge
- Basic gates using MUXes

Sources of Preparation:

- Textbooks and Class Notes
- For last minute prep, Sites: <http://www.vlsi-expert.com/>
- For the coding part: geeksforgeeks

Ideal Preparation time would be around a month or two to revise and understand all the concepts in every subject.

Advice for juniors:

- Try to be calm and confident during the entire process.
- Be proactive in answering the questions. Try to catch any hints the interviewer might be giving and apply the concepts you know to any question asked irrespective of its familiarity to you.
- Ensure that you convince the interviewer that you don't have immediate plans for higher education.

Name: Vibhav Jain

Company: Redpine Signals

Profile: Design Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

Written Test

- There was a written test to begin with. The test was of 90 minutes duration and had two parts.
- The first part was of around 35 questions and questions were mainly from communication systems, C programming, Digital design and around 10 questions were from quant.
- The second part had three sections. The student had to attempt one of the three sections according to his interest. The three sections were analog electronics, digital electronics, communication systems.
- Then students were shortlisted based on their performance for the interview rounds

Interview (2 technical +1 HR)

All the shortlisted students had three rounds of interview 2 technical and 1 HR round

First technical interview

- In this the interviewer asked basic questions from subjects such as Digital design Analog electronics, ADVD and Comp arch.
- He asked me around 20 basic questions like
 - o Write a small syntactically correct Verilog code
 - o He gave me a circuit and asked me to identify whether it is high pass or low pass filter.
 - o What is pipelining.
 - o Draw characteristics of an ideal low pass, band pass and high pass filter.
 - o What is shannon's theorem.
 - o What is the full form of MIPS
- The questions in this round were too many and simple and he was not expecting us to answer all of them correctly.

Second technical interview

- The interview was domain specific and was testing our in depth knowledge
- The interviewer asked me about the five stages in the MIPS processor
- Then he went deep into pipelining concepts and asked me what all memory elements are used for pipelining.
- He then asked me about forwarding and when NOP should be used.
- Then finally he asked me to draw state machine for a counter and write its Verilog code.

HR interview.

Typical questions can be expected like introduce yourself, why redpine, where do you see yourself in five years, any plans for MS, etc.

Sources of Preparation:

- Read through ADVD, CompArch, Communication system and Digital design slides before going for interview and the written test as well.

Courses:

ADVD, Comp arch, Communication systems, digital design and C programming

Other relevant information:

Stay calm and confident and answer whatever questions you know correctly. No one knows everything but your knowledge should be conveyed to the interviewer.

Name: Mohit Babel

Branch: Chemical

Profile: Market Analyst(Trading)

Company: Futures First

CTC: 12.4L

Recruitment Process:

Round 1: Online Test. There were 2 sections.

The first section focused on Speed Maths. In 6 minutes, the candidate had to solve 40 questions. These were simple arithmetic problems with no negative marking. The optimum number of questions to be solved to get shortlisted to further rounds was around 13-15.

The second section had 40 questions to be solved in a time duration of 40 minutes. The test was based on Logical Reasoning, Data Interpretation and Quantitative Ability. The optimum number of questions to be solved was around 15-20.

To check short term memory, a series of numbers or combinations of colors and numbers were shown for few seconds and then questions based on the series were asked.

Fairly simple test which could be cracked by maintaining good speed with accuracy.

Major Takeaway: Practice Speed Maths.

26 students were shortlisted to the next round. A questionnaire was to be filled after this round. It had questions like what was the biggest risk you have taken in your life, biggest achievements and accomplishments etc.

Round 2: Stress Interview.

Arbitrary questions from the questionnaire were asked. Hence it was important to remember all the questions and answers from the questionnaire. The interviewer was also trying to frustrate the candidate with counter questions. Consistency in the answers had to be maintained. Random Mental Maths questions were thrown in between. The candidate was asked to validate the answer and be sure of his/her answer. The interviewer wanted to know if the candidate be confident of his/her answer and be able to bet on it.

Major Takeaway: Keep your calm and do not get intimidated. The interviewer tries to play mind games with the candidate.

6 students were shortlisted post this round.

Round 3: Interview 2. Very similar to the previous round. Apart from the mental maths, a lot of puzzles were asked.

Round 3: HR Interview.

Generic questions on the candidate's family background, interests, future plans, if not this company which other companies would he sit for, etc were asked. A number of questions pertaining to the company and trading methodologies were asked, one had to attend the ppt and go through the website to answer these questions. The interviewer was very specific in knowing the candidate's future plans.

Major Takeaway: Ensure that you convince the interviewer with all the answers.

2 students were finally selected.

Sources of Preparation:

- Mental Maths: rankyourbrain.com and other material suggested by the placement unit
- Knowing Vedic Maths and tips & tricks will be highly recommended.
- Preparing for CAT Exam would also help in the preparation of this process.
- Puzzles: Analyticsvidya.com and other PU suggested websites.

Advice:

- Though finance knowledge was not tested in any of the rounds, it is recommended to do all the courses to understand the qualities of a trader and how trading works.
- Ideal prep time would be around 2-3 weeks. Main focus should be to improve mental maths skills.

Name: Sanjana Kunde

Company: Exxon Mobil

Branch: Chemical

Profile: Chemical Core

Recruitment Procedure:

1. No Resume Selection but Online Technical Round for whoever applied.

- Tech Round had 2 sections - first, Analytical + Quick Maths Questions & second, Branch wise Subjective questions (For Chemical, questions included Fluid Mechanics, Thermodynamics and Heat Transfer Operations)

- Since Exxon Mobil is an oil & gas company so their questions were more towards Fluids Dynamics part.

2. Group Discussion Round in Pilani. The topic given was not branch based but on general Awareness. Points were given on - Clarity of thoughts, Structured arguments, Listening Skills, Giving chance to others to put forth their points.

3. Final Interview.

- 2 people in the panel. One was asking questions directly on Projects, PORs. Another one was focusing on the approach taken for all answers and asking questions based on the answers given.

- Majorly Resume Based. Focussed on Projects done in the Chemical field (PS project, SOP, DOP) How you went about with the projects, approach to get your results and how were final results in sync or not with what was expected. Technical Questions from the Core was based on Projects only.

- Questions based on situations (What will be your take if something unethical is going on in the plant)

- Questions on Positions of Responsibility.

Preparation:

1. Went through all basic concepts of Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, Fluid Mechanics from the textbooks. Since the company is oil & gas based, focused more on fluid dynamics and Thermodynamics operations and it helped a lot.

2. Should be thorough with all the Dimensionless Numbers from the course.

Inferences:

1. Need to be thorough with your resume. Make sure everything there is valid and you have all the information related to that.

2. Read around your projects. Principles, theory and information about your work. Basics should be very clear. You should know your subjects inside out when giving Core Interviews (Thermodynamics, Fluid Mechanics and Heat Transfer principles should be well prepared)

3. There will be questions indirectly based on your PORs mentioned in your resume, so incorporate those in your answers confidently.

Name: Gokul T R

ID No: 2015A4PS0392H

Company: Alfa Laval

Recruitment Process:

Aptitude test:

It consisted of only logical reasoning questions.

Round one:

It was primarily a technical round. They asked basic mechanical related questions, and about hydroelectric plants and wind energy systems. They focused on the I have done, and asked technical questions from that. A few behavioural questions were also asked in this round. For example, I was asked what I would do if the roof of an office building falls. Another question was why I aspired to be a mechanical engineer. I answered that since there were three mechanical engineers in my family and grown up in Neyveli surrounded by power plants, this seemed to be the most natural option.

Round two:

It was the HR round. Standard questions like 'Why do you want to join this company?', 'Where do you see yourself in five years?', 'Why didn't you opt for a Master's program?' and 'What are your strengths and weaknesses?' were asked. I answered them as honestly as possible. I felt that joining Alfa Laval would cater to my mechanical aspirations, and that the industrial experience I gained there would be of immense potential than the knowledge I gain out of a Master's program. I told them that I was a team player, having been a leader and also having worked work under leaders. My weakness was my too self-critical nature.

Sources for Preparation:

No specific preparation went in for this company. The Edison Educational Development Program (EEDP) conducted in General Electric during my PS-2 gave me a thorough preparation for technical interview and gave me the confidence to face tougher interviews.

Name: Vivek Sharma

Sector of interest:

Company: L&T Construction

Profile: Graduate Engineer Trainee(Mechanical)

Recruitment Procedure:

- Online test consists of MCQs from almost all courses of mechanical. Questions were quite straightforward with no calculation required.
- Interview had only 1 round as it was a combined HR and technical interview. It had a panel of two, one was for HR and other for technical. There was also an extempore at the last where you have to choose a chit from a box and speak for 2 minutes on the topic written on it.
- The sample tests provided by PU on the platform COCubes contained good questions and covered most of the core topics. Other than that I was preparing for GATE and that helped me in all the core company tests.
- For me interview was mainly focused on my projects and they asked me the technical details of all my projects when I was explaining them.

Sources for Preparation:

- Gate preparation.
- PU sample test by CoCubes.
- Mechanical Handbook by Made easy contains all the formulas and concepts of full mechanical course.

Courses & Certification:

- No specific courses are required other than basic mechanical courses.

Other relevant information:

- For companies like L&T they try to select people who seem to join their company hence there will be a question of your future plans in case you have a high CG and you need to prepare for a convincing answer.
- According to me, they were not looking at the number or quality of project. Being confident in whatever you have done is the key. Try to lookup all the technical questions related to your project section of resume.

Name: Sai Manoj Kondapalli

Sector of interest: Core Mechanical

Company: Forbes Marshall

Profile: Graduate Engineering Trainee (Mechanical)

Recruitment Procedure:

- First there was a written test. The questions consisted of basic quantitative aptitude questions, and Mechanical questions of medium level difficulty.
- There was only one round on campus in which they asked personal questions and one technical question and the duration was 20 to 40 minutes per person.
- The main focus of the interviewer was on the projects. In my case all the project for equally important. The only use of CGPA in my case was to clear the cutoff.
- After campus selections, our company had another round in Pune. Ultimately, two people got selected (including me). I feel both of us are fit for the role, because we both had the sufficient knowledge to impress the CTO of that company, who was in the panel of interviewers.
- We ought to know every little detail about everything we write in our resume.
- We should either be able to answer all the questions they ask or should be thinking in the right path. We have to make our thought process clear to the interviewer even if we are wrong.
- Formal and pleasant behavior. (BITSians tend to be arrogant. One should not.)

Sources for Preparation:

- Subject preparation was done during GATE coaching I took in the summer before 4-1.

Courses & Certification:

- No specific courses required other than mechanical courses.

Other relevant information:

- Once we pass the barrier, technical knowledge is all that matters, at least in Core sector.
- In general, irrespective of the sector, one should be clear in the basic concepts of your subject that is required for the role. Don't try and learn complex things, they aren't gonna ask you those in interview processes. Stick to the basics.

Name: Bhautik Bipinbhai Patel

Sector of interest: Machine designing

Company: Wabco

Profile: Design engineer, R&D

Recruitment Procedure:

- Online test had two sections, Aptitude and Technical. In aptitude test again there were 3 sub-sections numerical, quantitative and verbal. Level was easy but the number of questions to be answered was like 15 in 150 seconds. So they wanted to test agility and astuteness in the test.
- There were two rounds which happened in a course of two days. On the first day there was a technical round and on the second day after getting shortlisted it was HR. Technical round went on for 20-25 minutes featuring questions mostly from Resume on projects and internship. 7-8 questions from technical round and 4-5 basic HR questions.
- Project and internship section was interviewer's favorite and one project which I did in research project which was related to manufacturing process got him interested. It did not reflect in the interview regarding CGPA but they kept cutoff of 70% for 10 th , 12 th , B.E and M.E.

Sources for Preparation:

- PU Practice tests from Placement season and CoCubes.
- BE technical notes from all major courses.

Courses & Certification:

- No specific courses other than basic Mechanical courses.
- Knowledge of Creo, Catia

Other relevant information:

- Basics of what I learned in B.E and knowledge of modeling software (Creo, Catia). They wanted the candidate who could easily get molded according to the work required and having the correct attitude to learn new things.
- Prepare aptitude and basic concepts of mechanical subjects studied. Also they focus on projects done and how flexible the candidate is to adopt to the role provided.

Name: Prashant Mittal

Sector of interest: Design & Simulation

Company: Cyient

Profile: Senior Design Engineer

Recruitment Procedure:

- The online test was of medium level but you have to be fast and the cutoff was sectional so be specific in the selection of questions.
- Interview process was of 2 rounds i.e. Technical and HR. For our batch interview was chill and just asked from the basics. Both the rounds were of almost the same duration (10-20 min). But this was not the same for Pilani and Goa campus students. For Pilani students, it was more project specific and for Goa students, it was related to subject questions.
- Prepare all your projects well i.e. what you have done, why you have chosen this, practical applications, basic principles (if any), software used, difficulties faced while doing your project, your contribution in group projects.
- Interviewer focused mainly on the projects done. My best project was on CFD which was so I put it on top of my projects. Always put the projects in a hierarchy of your confidence in projects. You should be able to speak for at least 2-3 min on each project.

Sources for Preparation:

- MadeEasy book
- Gate Preparation notes
- R S Aggarwal
- Online test series on PU Portal

Courses & Certification:

- Basics of mechanical engineering specially SOM, FM, TOM, MD. Just stick with the basics and prepare two subjects from M.E. which you studied in BITS.

Other relevant information:

- As far as core skills required are concerned, first they look for the understanding of the projects you have done and second things is the basic technical knowledge of your branch.
- CGPA was only the eligibility criteria to sit in the company, it has no relation to the interview.

Name: Gajraj Singh Rathore

Branch: Bharma

Sector of interest: R&D sector

Company: Credo Life Sciences

Profile: Quality control

Recruitment Procedure:

- Test was based on knowledge of basic chemistry and health science. No particular subject, prelim knowledge of chemistry and biology
- Interview was based on my personality traits. No questions related to subject were asked. Rather the focus was on communication skills. There were 2 rounds: 1 technical written and 1 interview.
- Fundamental knowledge of analytical chemistry combined with good interpersonal skills.
- Be confident about your interview (if you make through the written round). Skills combined with composure will get you through eventually and do not be disheartened mid-placement session.

Sources for Preparation:

- Quick revision of first year knowledge is more than enough, No particular resources required.

Courses & Certification:

- No specific course required. Revise basic chemistry.

Other relevant information:

- CGPA was not crucial. The future plan given more emphasis, which field does the candidate aim to build career, research or industry; clarity of mind is more important.

Name: Venkata Purneshwar

Branch: Civil

Sector of interest: Civil Core

Company: L&T

Profile: Graduate Engineer Trainee Power Transmission and Distribution (PT&D) department L&T

Recruitment Procedure:

The online test consists of basic English and aptitude (numerical majorly) questions. Medium level of questions and one can answer with some decent preparation.

For online test I prepared in Indiabix website and wrote many online aptitude exams in placement

training portal which helped a lot. Interest in core branch and knowledge in favorite subjects played an important role in the interview.

There is only one round in interview which consists of both technical and HR interviews and the duration is about 40min. For about half the time questions related to my favorite subject (geotechnical Engineering) are asked and then from any random civil subjects (majorly from construction materials, mechanics of solids, foundation engineering). In the end I faced one HR question.

Being a core company, one of the main foci in my resume is summer internship(PS-1) and my projects. My internship in core branch (Jaipur Development Authority), projects and publication in

geotechnical engineering helped a lot in interview process. My extra curricular activities also helped me in HR round.

This is the first and last company I sat, and being interested in civil engineering L&T always stood out

in my mind from the start.

According to me, the interviewers are looking for people passionate to work in core branch with some skills in their subjects of interest.

Suggestion to civil engineering students who wish to join L&T:

Your interest and passion in core branch and your thorough knowledge on basics helps you to get

through the interview process (be it in structural, water, foundation, transportation....).