

# TECHNICAL INTERVIEW





## Technical Interview

Looks for  
**TALENT**

## HR Interview

Looks for  
**INTENT**

## What HR Interview looks like?



**01****Tell me about yourself****DOs & DON'Ts**

- Do not start from your past
- Do not speak for more than 30 seconds
- Do not be an audio form of your resume, he/she can read all that
- Do not have same answer for all companies
- Match your qualifications/achievements with the interviewer needs
- It is a good practice to start from present and circle back to past
- If you can say something interesting which is not on your resume, it helps to break the ice with interviewer early on

**Remember** - Customize your answer per the requirement of the company. If you have project/internship/research close to company's requirement end your answer with that.



**O2**

## What are your greatest strengths?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- You should be prepared with 2 strengths backed by examples
- Which one to speak will depend on the requirement of the company

### Typically, student's talk about the following:

PROVEN TRACK RECORD	SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	LEADERSHIP QUALITY
BALANCED PERSONALITY	CULTURE FIT
HARD WORKING	PEOPLE MANAGEMENT
DEDICATION	MOTIVATION

- Do not say/write anything for which you cannot hold fort
- Do not be arrogant yet do not be over humble

**Remember** - This is an eliminator question, so if you know the company's requirement beforehand, it will help you largely



**O3**

## What are your greatest weaknesses?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Beware. This is an eliminator question designed to shorten the list
- You will earn "A" for honesty but "F" for interview
- Be honest, with a little bit of common sense
- **STRATEGY 1** – Disguise a strength as a weakness
- **PROBLEM** – It is too widely used and is very apparent
- **STRATEGY 2** – It is too widely used and is very apparent
- **STRATEGY 3** – If you know enough about the job role, describe what you like the most and like least

**Remember** - This is an eliminator question, so if you know the company's requirement beforehand, it will help you largely



**O4**

## What has been your biggest failure in life?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Saying you have "no failures" does not go down well. It appears as you are stonewalling
- Try not to say any of the following because the question is BIGGEST failure

COULD NOT GET SPECIFIC BRANCH	GIRLFRIEND/BOYFRIEND
NOT YET PLACED	DRUGS/ALCOHOL
A YEAR DROP AFTER CLASS 12	BAD GRE/CAT SCORE

- You can mention a failure, presenting it as an experience that taught you
- Something and the lesson that you learned.
- You should always be prepared with 2 failures backed by specific examples
- Try to match your learning from the failure with the company needs

**Remember** - You can make the failure (negative) of your life by also telling the interviewer the learning that you got from it and how have you changed.

# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



On a cold night, there are three men and three demons on one side of a damaged bridge. The bridge can only hold two people at a time. Also, there is only one lamp to guide on the bridge. If at any point of time the number of humans is lower than number of demons on one side, then the demons will kill the human.

How can you get all of them across without anyone dying?





**O5**

## Why should we hire you?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Do not speak about something which others also have like degree from IIT Bombay.
- Don't just talk in future tense stating "I could, or I would"
- You can start from your qualifications tying them well with the job needs
- Mention how seamlessly you'll fit in the culture. This will also show them that you have researched about the culture
- Give relevant examples if you can. It makes your answer more realistic.

**Remember** - This a spin-off of "What are your strengths" question, so 75% of your answer could be same for both the questions. Your research about the company would help you big time.



**O6**

## The "Inherent Problem" with your resume

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Typically following are the problem with one's resume, if at all there is an
- "INHERENT PROBLEM"
- Don't just talk in future tense stating "I could, or I would"

LOW CPI	NO P.O.R
NO INTERNSHIPS	MULTIPLE YEAR DROPS
NO PROJECT	CORE HEAVY RESUME

- Do not be over-defensive
- Do not say you are not interested, and if you are saying that then have a very solid reason and work to show what you are interested in
- You can tell them what kept you engaged, it could be sports, politics, fests, gaming, TV series. This answer should be given depending upon the mood and flow of the interview



- Tell them how well rounded you are now because you dabbled with so many things

**Remember** - Every resume has shortcoming or the other, some are over-qualified, some are under.

You very well know which portion of you resume would make you a punching bag. Go ahead, sell a fridge to an ESKIMO!!



07

Between you and your friend, Whom should we hire?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Do not say your it is your decision. They know it, that is why they are there!!
- Do not just start advocating your case or your friend's case. Instead, you can ask the interview what he/she liked in your friends and build your answer from there
- Please do not say take both.
- Say better things about yourself rather than say bad things about your friend.
- Best answer that I got was "If you think both of us are good, then hire me and once I am in the company, I'll get my friend through referral scheme."

**Remember** - This question is to understand how firm you are about your career aspirations.



**O8**

## Why should we hire you?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Do not list your drawbacks and make it easy for them
- Deal with this one as the "Your biggest weakness" question
- Talk about one or 2 point and leave it there.
- Do yourself a favour, do not talk a lot

**O9**

## Tell me 5 things unique about our company

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Don't say superficial statements like "It's a great company" etc.
- PLAYING 11 – should come very handy here. Use it well.
- If you know anyone working in the company then know the day-to-day working.
- If you don't know anyone then connect on LinkedIn to get an insight

# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



You have 25 horses, and each has a distinct speed.

You have a five track racetrack but no stopwatch or any other measurement device.

You can only tell comparative ranks in the race. You need to identify top 3 horses in terms of speed. How many minimum races do you require?





10

If we do not hire you, What is your plan?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- This is not a "This or nothing" question
- This is also not a "If not this then next" question
- Do not just say that I will apply off-campus and wait. It does not cut across very well. Everybody knows the reality.
- You can say that you will analyse the interview to see what went wrong and improve that
- You can say that you will analyse the interview to see what went wrong and improve that. At the same time, keep trying for off-campus in this company.

**Remember** - - You have to do the tight rope walk of being sensibly honest and also practical This company could be your dream, but if you do not make it then you have to take up a campus placement and keep trying externally.

**11**

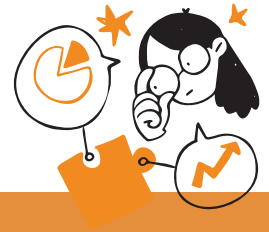
## Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

### DOs & DON'Ts

- Not sure, if you can be too specific in this question because both the interviewer and you know that you more often than not do not know.
- Don't be too vague & clueless. Have some path ahead, however dark it may be but have some direction of the road ahead.
- If you can bring an angle of how you want to grow in the role, that would be great, but you should be ready with all the info to do that.
- Probably the interviewer herself/himself doesn't know her/his 5yrs plan so no one expects you to be perfect, but they expect you to have some idea

**Remember** - - Your long-term commitment is being checked. You can earn brownie point by also exhibiting how well researched are you for the company and the role.

# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



You have two ropes and a lighter.  
Each rope has the following property:

If you light one end of the rope, it will take  
one hour to burn to the other end.  
They do not necessarily burn at a  
uniform rate.

How can you measure a period of  
45 minutes?







**12**

**Describe your ideal company, location & job**

### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- This is an eliminator question, do not get too excited and tell about another company /career/location
- Do not get too emotional and go gaga about the interviewing company
- Try to be diplomatic and if possible, connect with the existing companies values and work culture

**13**

**Why do you want to work at our company?**

### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- PLAYING-11 should have the answer of this one.
- This also looks like a sub-set of QUESTION-12.



**14**

What are your hobbies and interests?

**15**

What are your career options right now?

### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- Do not make it a trick question, by talking about a lot of options. Be focussed on the company in hand.

**16**

Who has inspired you in your life & Why?

### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- Warren Buffet, Raghuram Rajan, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg are the top choices. If you are about to say something on the same lines, do read about them.



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**17**

What was the toughest decision in your life?

### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- A year drop after class 12 might not be a wise answer because look where are you because of the year drop.

**18**

Give an example of your creativity

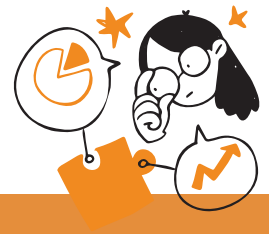
### **DOs & DON'Ts**

- Remember, creativity does not need to be art, music or painting. Creativity can be how you prepare for this interview and placements in general.

**19**

Have you considered starting your own business?

# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



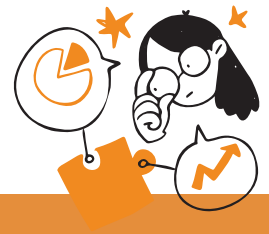
Suppose you have three boxes with fruits: one box with apples, another box with bananas, and a third one with both apples and bananas.

The boxes have labels (apples, bananas, apples & bananas) which describe the contents, but none of these labels is on the right box.

How can you determine what each of the boxes contains by touching only 1 piece of fruit from one box?



# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



You have 10 bags filled with Gold coins each coin weighs 10 gm, except one bag which contains defective coins, each which weighs 9 gm.

Given a scale to weigh, how do you find a bag which contains defective coins in just one measurement Here scale is modern day electronic scale to measure weight. (each bag has 27 gold coins).





**20**

**Sell me this pen**

(The interviewer has also seen "The Wolf of the Wall Street" so try some other trick).

**21**

On a scale of 10, rate me as an interviewer

**22**

Looking back, What would you do differently in life?

**DOs & DON'Ts**

- Do not get carried away and contradict something that you earlier said.

# COMMONLY ASKED PUZZLE



A mountain goat attempts to scale a cliff 100 feet high. Every minute, the goat bounds upward three feet but slips back two.

How long does it take for the goat to touch the top of the mountain?

Suppose You are standing next to a well, and you have two jugs. One jug has a content of 3 liters and the other one has a content of 5 liters.

How can you get just 4 liters of water using only these two jugs?





**MOST RACES ARE WON  
IN THE LAST 50M**

# **PLAN YOURS WELL**

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