

Mock Interview Activity

Activity Format

Overview

The group will conduct **two interview demonstrations**, each representing a different interview type - **Technical** and **Behavioural**.

Each member will play a distinct role (interviewer, interviewee, or commentator) in both rounds to showcase different communication and evaluation skills.

Rotation 1 - Technical Interview

Type: Technical (Concept-based evaluation)

Duration: ~5–6 minutes

Roles:

- **Panel:** Mujtaba, Huzaifa
- **Candidate:** Muhammad
- **Commentator:** Huzaifa

Purpose:

To demonstrate a professional interview assessing technical knowledge, logical thinking, and clarity of explanation.

Flow:

1. Mujtaba briefly introduces the activity and the first rotation.
2. Mujtaba and Huzaifa conduct a six-question technical interview with Muhammad.
3. Huzaifa provides a short commentary on interview structure, communication style, and possible improvements.

Rotation 2 - Behavioural Interview

Type: Behavioural (Personality and attitude-based evaluation)

Duration: ~5–6 minutes

Roles:

- **Interviewers:** Huzaifa, Muhammad
- **Candidate:** Mujtaba
- **Commentator:** Muhammad

Purpose:

To demonstrate how behavioural interviews assess communication, teamwork, adaptability, and attitude under various workplace situations.

Flow:

1. Huzaifa introduces the second rotation.
2. Huzaifa and Muhammad take turns asking six situational/behavioural questions.
3. Mujtaba responds with examples and reflections.
4. Muhammad gives a commentary highlighting soft skills, emotional intelligence, and non-verbal communication.

Rotation 1 - Technical Interview

(*Mujtaba* introduces the group as team lead, and the activity that we are going to perform.)

Mujtaba: "Assalam o Alaikum, Mr. Muhammad. Please have a seat. (Introduce yourself, @Mujtaba and @Huzaifa, to the candidate.) Let's start with a quick introduction — could you tell me a bit about yourself and your main technical interests?"

***Mujtaba*: 1 "Can you briefly introduce yourself and tell me what areas of computer systems interest you the most?"**

- I'm Muhammad Ahmed Qazi, a second-year Computer and Information Systems Engineering student at NED University.
- I'm particularly interested in digital logic design and how hardware and software interact.
- I enjoy solving problems that connect theory with practical systems.

Mujtaba: "That's interesting — I like your focus on connecting hardware and software. Let's move on to something basic but important."

***Mujtaba*: 2 "What's the difference between compilation and execution of a program?"**

- Compilation converts source code into machine code and checks for syntax errors.
- Execution is when that compiled code actually runs and performs the given operations.
- So, compilation prepares the program; execution makes it work.

Huzaifa: "Good, that shows you understand the programming flow clearly. Now I'd like to test your logical thinking."

***Huzaifa*: 3 "If you were asked to find the largest number in an array, how would you approach the problem?"**

- I'd start by assuming the first element is the largest.
- Then I'd iterate through the array, comparing each element.

- If I find a bigger one, I update the variable storing the maximum.

Huzaifa: “Alright, that’s a clear and structured approach. Let’s talk a bit about data structures.”

***Huzaifa:* 4 “Can you explain the difference between an array and a linked list — and where each would be more useful?”**

- An array stores elements in a continuous memory block, so it’s faster for indexing.
- A linked list stores elements in separate nodes connected by pointers, making insertion and deletion easier.
- Arrays are better when the size is fixed; linked lists are better when data changes often.

Mujtaba: “Okay. Let’s go slightly deeper into computer systems.”

***Mujtaba:* 5 “How does memory management ensure smooth program execution?”**

- It keeps track of how memory is allocated and released for programs.
- This prevents overlapping or wastage of memory.
- Efficient memory management helps avoid crashes and improves performance.

Mujtaba: “Great. Let’s end with a practical scenario to see how you’d handle real-world issues.”

***Mujtaba:* 6 “If you were debugging a program that keeps crashing, what steps would you take to find the cause?”**

- I’d first isolate the section causing the crash and test smaller parts individually. Then I’d use print statements or a debugger to trace variable values.
- Finally, I’d fix the error logically and retest the full program.

Mujtaba: “Thank you, Mr. Muhammad. That will be all. Our HR team will contact you for further processes.”

***Huzaifa:* Comments on Interview**

(Ask the audience which type of interview they thought this was.)

That was a solid example of a technical interview. The interview followed a logical sequence — starting from basic questions and gradually moving into deeper concepts. The candidate responded clearly and confidently, showing both understanding and composure.

I liked that he gave short, structured answers instead of overexplaining, which made the conversation flow smoothly. The technical explanations — like arrays vs. linked lists — were accurate and easy to follow.

One small improvement could be adding short examples or connecting answers to practical use cases. That helps make responses sound even more engaging and applied. Overall, it was a very well-handled technical interview with good communication.

Rotation 2 - Behavioural Interview

(*Huzaifa* introduces the second rotation and informs the audience of the panel members and the interview candidate.)

1 Question (Opening)

Huzaifa: "Good afternoon, Mujtaba. To start off, can you tell us about a time you worked on a team project and how you managed different opinions among team members?"

- In a programming lab, my team disagreed on how to divide coding tasks.
- I suggested we list all tasks first and assign them based on each member's strengths.
- That approach helped us work more efficiently and kept everyone satisfied.

2 Question

Muhammad: "That's good teamwork. Can you describe a situation where you faced time pressure and how you handled it?"

- Once I had two major submissions due in the same week.
- I prioritised the one that required more effort first and broke both tasks into smaller chunks.
- Staying organised and calm helped me complete both before the deadlines.

3 Question

Huzaifa: "Tell us about a time you received constructive criticism. How did you respond?"

- A lab instructor once pointed out that my report lacked clarity.
- I thanked him, reviewed the report, and asked for suggestions on improvement.
- After applying his feedback, I noticed my writing and formatting had improved significantly.

4 Question

Muhammad: "Imagine you're working in a group, and one member isn't contributing equally. What would you do?"

- I'd first check if they're struggling with something or unsure of their role.
- Then I'd try to involve them by assigning smaller tasks they feel confident doing.
- If the problem continued, I'd calmly inform the team lead or instructor.

5 Question

Huzaifa: “Can you share an example of when you took initiative to solve a problem without being asked?”

- During a project, I noticed our documentation was inconsistent.
- I took the initiative to create a shared template so everyone’s format matched.
- It saved time later and made our final submission look professional.

6 Question (Wrap-up)

Muhammad: “Lastly, what do you think makes you a good team member?”

- I communicate openly and make sure everyone feels heard.
- I stay calm under pressure and focus on solutions rather than problems.
- I believe teamwork is about balance — helping others while meeting your own responsibilities.

Muhammad: Comments on Interview

This interview was a good example of how behavioural interviews focus more on communication and personality rather than technical depth. The panel maintained a friendly tone, which encouraged open, genuine answers — exactly what behavioural questions are meant to do.

The candidate responded thoughtfully, showing self-awareness and emotional maturity. His answers reflected teamwork, adaptability, and accountability — all traits that employers look for beyond technical ability.

One thing that stood out was his calm body language and clear structure when answering situational questions. That kind of composure makes a strong professional impression.

If anything could be improved, perhaps the candidate could include a bit more detail in describing challenges — that gives the interviewer a deeper sense of problem-solving under pressure. Overall, it was an engaging and well-balanced demonstration of a behavioural interview.

(*Muhammad concludes the activity and thanks the audience for their attention.*)