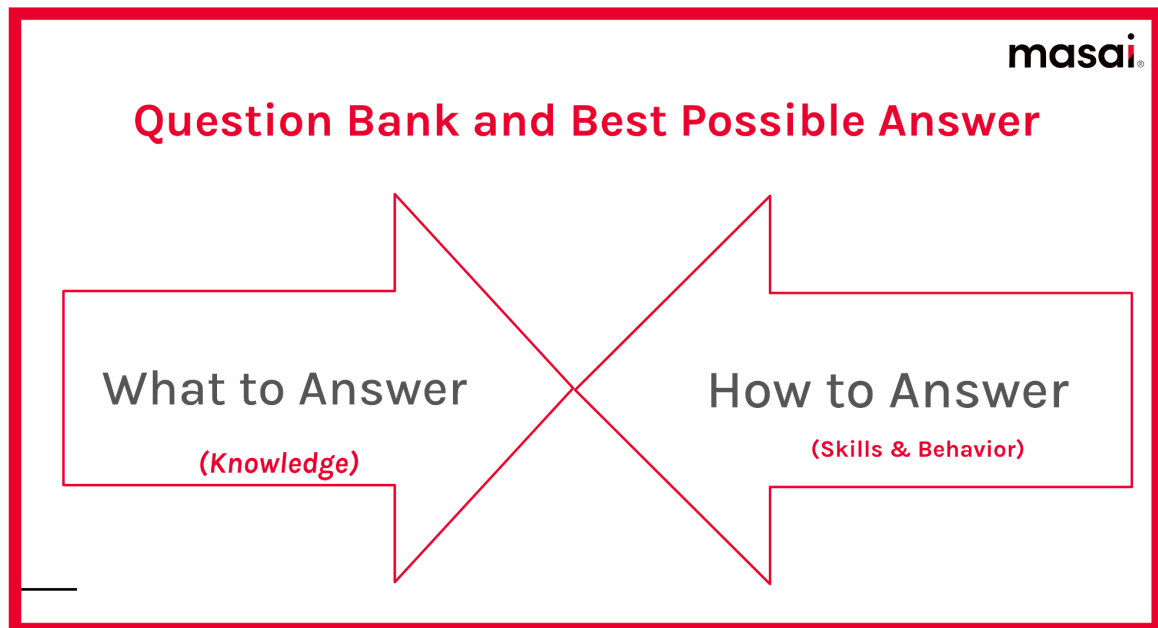# Interview Readiness

Every company conducts an interview to assess the candidates' suitability for the Job. At Masai School, we have come up with 30+ most probable questions (Question Bank).

The Goal is to get ready - What to answer and How to Answer

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Question Bank and Best Possible Answer

What to Answer

(Knowledge)

How to Answer

(Skills & Behavior)

What should be the ideal length of the answer?
- While there's no ideal length of time for answering an interview question, research says it's best to keep your responses to under 90 seconds i.e. 150-180 words
- If the interviewer wants to know more (L2 level), they will ask you / probe in detail

Important Pointers while preparing the Answers to Question Bank
- ★ Do not fake, be yourself
- ★ Prepare answers at L1 and L2 level
- ★ The L1 level is an overview of 60-90 seconds
- ★ L2 Level is more in-depth with situation-based response (up to 3 minutes)

Mandatory Question (99.99%)

Question 1: Introduce yourself /Tell me about yourself

➢ Mention your full name and location
➢ Education Qualification
➢ Experience/Internships if any
➢ Hobbies /Interests
➢ Family Background
➢ How did you decide to opt for Web Development/Data
➢ Analysis/Designing?
➢ Any specific behavioural trait that would add value to your profile Share Masai School, full-time/part-time - Intensive and immersive program you did

Example:

I am Rakesh Saha from Ranchi. I graduated with B Tech Computer science in 2020 from Silicon College, Biju Patnaik University, Bhubaneswar

During my engineering, I was part of a team that was building a platform for placement services. This exposure excited me and I was keen to build a career in coding

I joined Masai school, which offers a 30 weeks full-time course on a full stack web development program. At Masai school, we get hands-on experience to learn front-end and back-end technologies.

My hobbies and leisure interests include playing cricket, I captained my college cricket team & won inter-college tournaments at the university level, and I have a keen interest in writing Hindi poems.

About my family, my father is a locomotive pilot with Indian Railways and mother is a homemaker, and my elder brother works for a Bank.

Note: You only have one chance at a first impression! The first 60 seconds matter
The objective is to create an impact very early in the interview process and it will increase your chances of success.

The key elements of the elevator pitch (introduction is)

➔ It should be Short, You have limited time!

➔ It should be Direct - you should get to the point

➔ Attention Grabbing ie Present your best so far.

Question Bank | 30+ Most probable Interview Questions - 5 large categorisations.

1. General Questions
2. Curve Ball / Stress Questions
3. Behavioural HR Questions
4.. Opinion-Based HR Question
5. Pick your brain HR Question

A. General Questions (8)

1. Introduce yourself / Tell me about yourself!
2. What are your strengths and your weaknesses?
3. What are your career Objectives?/Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?
4. Why should we hire you? / Why do you think you are eligible for this job?
5. What is your greatest personal/professional achievement so far?
6. Tell me about a team project you were involved in. What was your role, and what was the outcome?
7. What are your salary expectations?
8. Do you have any questions for us?

B. Curve Ball / Stress Question (5)

1. Why did you leave your previous job? (If applicable)
2. Why is there a gap in your employment / Gap years after your education? (If applicable)
3. Can you explain why you changed your career paths? (If applicable
4. Why should we hire you? / Why do you think you are eligible for this job?
5. What are your salary expectations? Why

C. Behavioural HR Questions (5)

1. Tell me about your collaborative projects and what are your key learnings from them.
2. How do you deal with pressure situations?
3. Tell me a challenge you've faced at work/life and how you dealt with it?
4. Tell me about a time when you displayed leadership skills
5. Tell me about a mistake you made in your life/career.

D. Opinion-based HR Questions (8)

1. What do you think of an ideal career?
2. What motivates you ? and why?
3. Which one would you value more, salary or Learning opportunity? and why?
4. What is your dream company to work for and why?

5. What would your friends/co-workers say about you?
6. Why did you join Masai school? & What has been your experience at Masai school?
7. What does your perfect day/workday look like? Take me through it.
8. How do you deal with feedback and criticism?

E. Pick your brain Questions (5)
1. If you won a Rs.10-crore lottery, would you still work?
2. Give me an example of your creativity.
3. If you are made the chief minister of your state, what are the 3 problems you would like to solve and why?
4. How much do you think you should be paid by looking at your qualifications?
5. Your views on Work-life balance

STAR METHOD

One of the most powerful framework to answer behavioral questions are <u>STAR Method</u>

POWERFUL WAY TO ANSWER BEHAVIOURAL INTERVIEW Q'S
STAR METHOD

STAR method will help you prepare clear and concise responses using real-life examples.

By **using the STAR strategy**, you can make sure you're fully addressing the interviewer's question while also demonstrating how you were able to overcome previous challenges and be successful

Describe a time when you were under a lot of pressure at work. How did you react?

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Situation

In my previous collaborative project at masai school one of our project member fell sick

Task

Although I was already managing a lot in the project, I was assigned this new part as well. I knew the stakes were high or us and if we don't complete on time, then we wouldn't be able to take part in the hackathon competition

Action

I first took some measures to destress. Then I carefully evaluated and restructured my task list to make sure I could manage all my duties. Because of this, I was able to make myself completely available and I also sacrificed some evenings and weekends to take work until the project was delivered.

Results

The project was finished, it was shortlisted as top 5 project to be presented to the panel and we were declared runner up

Interview Readiness - Sample Answers

Traditional Questions (12)

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Question 2: What are your strengths?

- ➢ Showcase strengths related to your job profile
- ➢ Mention at least 2 strengths
- ➢ Explain why you think it's a strength of yours/Add examples to
- ➢ justify
- ➢ Include some interpersonal skills as well
- ➢ Be realistic about your strengths

Example
My top two strengths are I am hardworking and Determined.

Personal Example of Hardworking & Determined

Situation: When I was studying in my 12th standard, I aimed for Engineering in Computer Science stream. But unfortunately, my family had financial difficulty and hence could not pursue my dream. To support my family financially I worked as a tractor driver.

Task: I realized that is not enough for my family, I have to study more and get better-paid jobs.

Action:

- I started my BSC course at Utkal University and worked in a call center during the night shift at Serco BPO. subsequently, I got a scholarship from the government of Orissa to study higher education. I completed my dream of pursuing B Tech in computer science & I worked the night in Autocad for WET. In 2018 I moved to Bangalore to find a software job, but I could not get a suitable job.
- Surviving in Bangalore was becoming a challenge, so I joined Cashify, my Job involved Stock management, Packaging, and transporting. In the night I was studying coding from online resources.
- In May 2019, I came across Masai school which offered full stack web development course with zero upfront fees.

Results:

- I completed the course at Masai successfully following 9-9-6 curriculum and today I am being interviewed for a front-end developer role at your company.

Question 3: What are your weaknesses?

➢ Mention the skill set related to your job profile, which you think you can improve instead of personal weaknesses.
➢ When you talk about your weaknesses, also mention what are you doing in order to improve it
➢ You can talk about 1 weakness
➢ Do not mention - I am a lazy person, I love to sleep, I prefer working alone, etc

A good answer has two important parts:

1. Briefly describe a **real weakness** that wouldn't be a major handicap for the job.
2. Explain **how you're striving to improve on your weakness.** This shows that you are self-aware, have the drive to be your best and that your weakness will not slow you down.
3. Select a weakness that is relatively minor and "fixable"

Example 1: *"I get nervous when speaking in front of large groups."*

Why this works: You can get better through practice and learning new skills — and this is a common development area

Example 2: I am Too Direct - *" My personality is naturally very straightforward and to the point, and most of my colleagues really value that, but I have learned that there are times on the job when more diplomacy is required. So now I am very conscious of this and working towards the same"*

Why This Works: This weakness is described well. The candidate notes how directness has been a weakness while also making it clear that he is not a raging jerk to his coworkers.

In the second part, he talks about steps that he has taken and how he has improved.

Question 4: Why do you want to work for our company?

➢ Do deep research about the company and what made you apply here
➢ Talk about the things you admire about the company.

   For example - work culture, growth aspects, mission and vision of the company, etc.

➢ Talk about how your goals align with that of the company

Question 5: What are your career objectives?/Where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

➢ Talk about things you plan to achieve in the coming years of your career
➢ Do not be vague while you mention your career goals, it should be about your professional journey and how you plan to achieve it
➢ Mention things you wish to learn/upskill yourself about in your career through the project that you would join in that organisation

Question 6: What is your greatest personal / Professional achievement so far?

➢ Mention achievements that could be related to your professional career however if you don't have any so far then personal achievements can be mentioned
➢ You can give some examples related to your achievements at Masai School

Question 7: Tell me about a team project you were involved in. What was your role, and what was the outcome?

➢ Describe the project you made and what was your role in it.
➢ Focus on the technical aspect of your contribution to the project
➢ What did you learn? How was the experience working in a team?
➢ What challenges did you face while working on the project? What was your role specifically in the project?
➢ Talk about the applications/technologies you used to make the project

Question 8: What does your perfect day/workday look like? Take me through it.

➢ Here you can share what your perfect personal and professional day looks like
➢ Talk about what are the things you would do to make your day perfect
➢ How would you manage your time/personal life/professional life etc. in order to make the day perfect
➢ Concentrate on the work part majorly as to how to manage your work and time

Question 9: Why did you join Masai School?

➢ Talk about what made you join Masai School/ What are the reasons that attracted you to Masai School
➢ Talk about your journey when you decided to be a part of Masai School and the program you chose to pursue here

Question 10: What has been your experience at Masai School?

➢ Talk about your learnings at Masai school. For example, You could mention time management, stress management, self-paced learning, due diligence, etc.
➢ You could also mention your experience while working with different team members, Masai trainers/coaches, etc.

Question 11: Why should we hire you? / Why do you think you are eligible for this job? / How can you contribute? / How will you be an asset to our company?

➢ Ensure you read the job description thoroughly and align your skills and strengths with the same
➢ Mention how you are capable of this job profile and how can hiring you make a difference in the organisation
➢ Mention how passionate you are about your work and how will the company benefit by hiring you
➢ Showcase your fitment with the organisation

Question 12: What are your salary expectations?

➢ Not recommended to provide a number as you are sitting for interviews through Masai placements. Always mention it's negotiable and will get back after a discussion with the team.
➢ You can mention that you expect a salary that is according to the market expectations

Behavioural Questions (5)

Q.1. Tell me about your collaborative projects and what are your key learnings from them.

➢ Start with the description of what and why of the project(Construct week)
➢ Give a brief introduction of the project. One sentence to describe what the project does (no technical detail). This should be a sentence that you would mention to describe your app/project on the play store. Also, mention the number of people involved and the duration it took to build the project
➢ Tech stack: Programs, languages you used
➢ Brief description of the features of the project
➢ Areas of responsibility
➢ A sentence describing any challenges or accomplishments or how you used technology creatively
➢ Learnings from the project

Sample: In the construct week, which happens once a month, we were asked to build a project. As a part of the construct week, we built a project, which was the clone of a website called Myntra. Myntra is an e-commerce website for fashion and lifestyle products. We were a team of 5 and we took one week to finish the project.

For the front end part of the website, we used HTML, JAVASCRIPT, and CSS, for the backend we used Node express and Mongo DB. We created 6 pages, login page, landing page, products page, detail page, cart page, and payments page and all of them were fully functional. My responsibility was to create the landing page and also to create the connection between the cart page and the address page.

Q.2. How do you deal with pressure situations?

➢ The interviewer wants to get a better idea of how you handle various stressful situations in life and to help determine if you're the right candidate for the position and company

➢ That means you'll want to highlight your skills and use real-life examples(better talk about work(if you do) or training at Masai.

➢ A few soft skills you might use to address stress or pressure at work include: Adaptability, Communication, Time management, Organisation, Leadership, and Problem-solving.

➢ Add context to these skills with a relevant, impactful example.

➢ Make sure you remember not to focus on situations where you were at fault.

➢ Avoid talking about the time you forgot you had a project due the next day or that time you took on way too many assignments and struggled to juggle them.

Sample: I was recently assigned a last-minute project. Instead of panicking, I took a few moments to outline a schedule and map out my game plan. Then I got to work. I made sure to communicate my progress with my manager so that they could stay in the loop. If any problems came up, I looped them in so we could troubleshoot and continue to make progress. I was able to complete the project on time, and the client was thrilled.

Q.3. Tell me a challenge you've faced at work/life and how you dealt with it.

- ➤ Use a professional or work-related story if you can
- ➤ Try to include a relevant story that can apply to the job position
- ➤ Emphasise what you learned from the challenging situation
- ➤ Keep the interview answer simple and concise
- ➤ Be humble but proud of your accomplishments

Q.4. Tell me about a time when you displayed leadership skills.

- ➤ Define what leadership means to you in one to two sentences. (Hint: To streamline your answer, you should emphasize the aspects of leadership demonstrated by your story.)
- ➤ Outline the Situation briefly, including all the details necessary to understand your story (and any that mention skills you'd be using in this job)
- ➤ Describe the Task—or what your responsibility was in the situation
- ➤ Talk about the Action (or actions) you took and make sure you frame it all in terms of your leadership
- ➤ Talk about the Results of your actions—the more quantifiable and concrete the better. You can also briefly talk about anything you learned about leadership from this experience

Q.5. Tell me about a mistake you made in your life/career.

- ➤ Outline your mistake
- ➤ Describe your actions
- ➤ Emphasise positive results
- ➤ Discuss what you learned
- ➤ Describe your way forward not to repeat the same mistake again

Opinion-based Questions (8)

Q.1. What do you think of an ideal career?

➢ Understanding what motivates you is the first step in defining your ideal career path.
➢ If possible, talk about a career that is in the field of the job you are interviewing for
➢ But it always does not necessarily have to be a specific job or industry. It can be things like "helping others" or "working on a technology that would change people's lives"
➢ Tell them that after gaining some experience, you will be in a better position to identify your strengths and leverage your talent for success
➢ Think in terms of career opportunities instead of particular jobs or money. Example: Not thinking about changing jobs for higher compensation and focusing on the career track you want.
➢ Look to the future. Will your dream job change soon — or even worse, will it be eliminated?
➢ To identify a profession with potential, look at current trends in the industry

Q.2. What motivates you? Why?

➢ This question is not asking 'What motivates you to apply for this role?'
➢ When preparing to answer this question, you should think about:
  ● What do you enjoy doing? Think about your job and your wider interests. What do they have in common?
  ● What have you enjoyed while working at your part-time jobs or internships? What did you look forward to?
  ● When you came home feeling that you'd had a good day, what kind of tasks or projects had you tackled?
  ● What sort of tasks are you best at?
  ● In what sort of environments (busy, deadline-driven, loud, quiet, etc) do you work the best?

Sample: 'I am motivated by meeting set targets within deadlines, as it gives me a sense of accomplishment and it's something that I can look back on and say "I achieved that". I'm also motivated by visible results – for example, when I had created a crossword as a solo project in one week, I got a sense of accomplishment from knowing that it was my first time and it was fully functional.'

Q.3. Which one would you value more salary or a Learning opportunity? Why?

- ➢ Choose Learning
- ➢ Learning will stay forever and with the help of which you can earn a lot in the future as well as in the present i.e. "salary is a subset of learning"
- ➢ Focusing on salary will help you to enjoy up to a limited period but focusing on learning will overpower you in every field
- ➢ Other than this, progress in the career path will also improve if learning is focused upon

Q.4. What is your dream company to work for and why?

- ➢ Learn about your ideal company's mission and objectives.
- ➢ Learn about the organisational structure, CEO/Founder, and Board.
- ➢ Figure out the inner workings so that you can address your desire for growth opportunities.
- ➢ Relate your own values and personal goals to the company's goals in your response.
- ➢ Showcase your liking towards and esteem for the company.

Sample: My ideal company or dream company should be able to offer ground-breaking solutions to existing problems. I want to work for an organisation that has a clearly defined vision and mission statements to provide reliable and high-quality products that specifically align with my commitment to making the customer or end-user happy. I would love to work in a casual work environment that has a strong emphasis on teamwork and also an open-door policy where I can approach the senior management for a heart-to-heart discussion if needed.

Q.5. What would your friends/co-workers say about you?

- ➢ Talk about the qualities that your friends really admire about you.
- ➢ Mention the strengths that you are renowned for at work that can help portray your positives.
- ➢ Also mention proper reasons/examples for the qualities or strengths that you talk about to be more specific.

Q.6. Why did you join Masai school? What has been your experience at Masai school?

- ➢ Talk about how coding/web development is your passion and how did it motivate you to join Masai

➢ Share your experience in terms of the sessions, study patterns, and lifestyle change while being at Masai
➢ Also, you can mention what your driving force was that made you join Masai.

Q.7. What does your perfect day/workday look like? Take me through it.

➢ Talk about how you would want your day to start
➢ Things you would do on an ideal day (for example: having a king-size breakfast, going for a trek, spending time with family or friends)
➢ Give elaborate reasons why you wish to do these things on your ideal day.

Q.8. How do you deal with feedback and criticism?

➢ Try to indicate that although you are confident about your work but not stubborn to accepting feedback/criticism
➢ Show that you are flexible and willing to make changes and modifications, when necessary
➢ Give a few examples if possible to showcase how you have accepted and worked on any feedback that you received and improved your performance at work

Pick your brain Questions (5)

Q.1. If you won a Rs.10-crore lottery, would you still work?

➢ Here you could talk about your dreams and aspirations. Something you always wanted to achieve in your life
➢ How would you help the society if you have so much money, how could you support your family and their dreams?
➢ This is an open-ended question so there is no right or wrong answer but you should explain in detail how would use that money to your advantage
➢ Also, you could mention if you would like to seek someone's guidance while spending or investing this money.

Q.2. Give me an example of your creativity.

➢ You can talk about something creative you did in college, internship, at Masai, or at home
➢ How do you think it helped you or what difference that created in your life?
➢ Also, you can mention how being creative at work can help kill boredom and enhance productivity.

Q.3. If you are made the chief minister of your state, what are the 3 problems you would like to solve and why?

➢ Firstly you should talk about the role and responsibility of a chief minister and how would you do justice to this role
➢ The 3 things that you mention should be something that you deeply believe in (for example girl education, action against rapists, corruption, black money, etc.)
➢ Back your answers with some examples that you feel will make your answer more elaborate and precise.

Q.4. How much do you think you should be paid by looking at your qualifications?

➢ Here you could give a specific amount of salary that you think you deserve
➢ Talk about your skill set and how you think you are competent enough for this role
➢ Mention your strengths and how can you be an asset to the company

➢ Also, you can talk about how implementing your skills and knowledge at work turn out to be beneficial for the organisation

Q.5. Your views on Work-Life balance.

➢ Mention what is work-life balance for you. Do you think it is necessary?
➢ Talk about how important it is to maintain a balance between your professional and personal life
➢ Talk about what you do to maintain this balance (for example: not answering phone calls post 8 pm, not attending work calls at the dinner table, ensuring weekends are only for family and friends)
➢ Mention the importance of devoting some set hours to your family as well as focusing entirely on work during the office hours

Random Questions (4)

Q.1. Which animal/bird would you like to be and why?

➢ Mention an animal you know well whose qualities would help you define yourself.

➢ **Example**: I would choose to be a Squirrel, simply because they have a fantastic vision, they are super fast and flexible, and they can also learn things really quickly

➢ Here you have to mention the skills and qualities you have that would add value to the organisation while you describe which animal you wish to be

Q.2. If you were on an island and could take only 3 things with you what would you take?

➢ Here the interviewer wants to check what would you prioritise in such a situation and are able to think on your feet

➢ **Example**: I would like to take food, water, and also a boat to get back home.

➢ Ensure that your answer is logical and thoughtful

Q.3. If you met the CEO of your company and you both are in the lift. What would you talk about?

➢ Here you can talk about you create an impact on the CEO or how would initiate a conversation

➢ **Example**: I would ask them what advice they could give me to ensure I continued to be successful in my career and also what's the most important thing an employee could do to help make the company successful

➢ You can also first introduce yourself and tell which department you work for and then have a general conversation

Q.4. If you could have dinner with someone of your choice, who would it be with and why?

➢ You can mention a person who has deeply inspired you or motivated you in life

➢ Avoid naming actors or singers since this is a professional question and try saying a name that you feel belongs to the profession you are from or if not the same profession someone who you feel is your idol.

Mostly at the end of your interview, your interviewers might ask you

"If you have any questions for them".

- ★ Do Plan this in advance and have at least 2-3 meaningful questions
- ★ This will create a good impression with the interviewers
- ★ It shows that you've been paying attention and done your homework

Technical Person
- What is your tech stack?
- What are the technical challenges that the company/team is facing?
- How does the engineering team balance resources between feature requests and engineering maintenance?
- What do you measure? What are your most important product metrics?
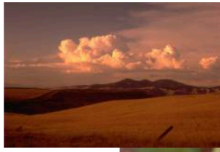
Product Person
- When are you planning to provide the next release?
- What are your highest priorities right now? new features, new products, solidifying existing code, reducing operations overhead?

HR
- Who is your ideal candidate and how can I make myself more like them?
- What concerns/reservations do you have about me for this position?
- What can I help to clarify that would make hiring me an easy decision?
- What is unique about working at this company?

Culture
- What is your policy on working from home/remotely?
- Generally how involved are the founders in the day-to-day?
- Does the company culture encourage entrepreneurship?

Little things
Don't Mean a lot . . .

They Mean Everything !!