ZS BTSA Interview Experience
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(Selected)

Rounds:

Round 1 (Online Assessment)

Round 2 (Verbal Assessment)

Round 3 (Online Technical Assessment)

Round 4 (Interview Round)

If you want to read about the initial rounds of selection of ZS (1-3), then you can refer to this article on GFG.

I will start directly with my interview experience.
And at the end, I have also mentioned some important tips (according to me).

Round 1

My round 1 interview was scheduled for 2:30 pm, but it started at 6 pm. I was totally exhausted and also, I haven't eaten anything due to anxiety. And also, I was last in my panel. So, I knew that the interviewer also must be exhausted.

So, when I entered the room, I greeted him with great energy and said "finally the interview time for me after a long wait". He smiled and said "last interview for me as well".

He began with his intro first then asked for mine. I mentioned name, year, branch, internship exp, and position of responsibility (DJS CodeStars VCP). He asked me in detail about my internship and CodeStars, like what exactly I do there. Then he asked to explain all the projects mentioned in my resume. I had highlighted one algorithm there, so he asked about that.

Then he moved to the SQL questions.

1. How to copy data from one table into another. What if i just want to copy the structure and not the data fields.

2. He drew 3 tables on a paper. Employee details, department details and one table containing mapping of employee id and dept id. He asked query to fetch dept name of employees whose DOB < 2005.

(I got confused in it, and wrote query for fetching employees name, later he corrected me but I gave the correct approach)

3. There is a table with just 1 column named num. There are numbers in it. Display just the even numbers. (Where num%2=0). Then he asked me to fetch numbers which lies on even numbered row. (Just before my interview, I saw one YouTube video 2x pe on the SQL window functions, so in this question we need to use row_number function).

Then he started asking puzzles, which I had practised from GFG for my previous interviews. He asked around 3-4 puzzles which I answered correctly.

Tip: even if you know the answer pehle se, don't just straightaway mention the answer, thoda acting karo ki you don't know but you are arriving at the answer step by step.

Then at the end, he asked me if I have any questions, then I asked him about his decision of staying in ZS for the last 7 years (he had mentioned in his intro at the start). Then also asked if he was also BTSA. He was a campus hire from MIT Pune :)

After 5 mins, I got to know that I have been shortlisted for round 2 interview.

Then I went through the ZS ka website, googled some commonly asked HR questions.

Round 2

It began at 9 pm.

Started with my intro. Then he asked about the projects.

Then a probability-based question. Assume you have 3 friends in Pune, and they tell you if it's raining or not. So, what's the probability that it's raining really. I answered something stating my assumptions. Then he said that you are considering that all people are speaking truth. But what if someone is lying. Then I started calculating that. Told my approach and he was satisfied with it.

Then he asked one guesstimate – suppose you are a company and have been given a task to replace all the traffic signals in Mumbai to solar powered signals, so what will be your approach? I thought for 5-10 seconds then said that first to get estimate of the number of signals in Mumbai and then maybe we will divide Mumbai into multiple areas and can carry out the replacement work. Then he asked me to find that number. So, I started asking some clarifying questions, like do we also to include the signals of trains, metros, basically all the transportation have signals, so he said yes. Then I said that almost for every 5 kms of road we will have a signal, and every stop will have 2 signals (2 sided roads, so 1 signal on each side), and we also have cross junctions where we will have 4 signals. 20% for cross junctions and remaining 80% for 2 signals. Then I got stuck because I didn't have the information on the total length of road network present in Mumbai, so I asked for some hint. Then he said that western line has 3 highways of 50kms each which covers almost all Mumbai. So, I proceeded with that. Calculated similarly for central, trans-harbour lines. He then stopped me, as he got my approach.

Then he asked an interesting question. Suppose there is a tree and 1 bug. The bug eats 1 leaf on 1st day, 2 leaves on 2nd day, and so on. He finishes eating complete tree on 30th day. So how may days it takes for 2 bugs to finish the complete tree. So, I first calculated the number of leaves tree has initially and then we will have to divide that number of leaves among 2 bugs equally, and then find the number of days it will take for them to eat the tree completely.

number_of _leaves = (30*31)/2 = 465 leaves
each bug will get = 465/2 leaves
days => (n*(n+1))/2 = 465/2
n = 21 days

Tip: Be confident in your answer. Your approach matters the most. First think the problem from every perspective. Ask right questions. And if you are not able to come up with the solution or feels stuck somewhere, then do ask for some hints or maybe ask "am I proceeding in the correct direction".

Then in the end, as usual he asked if I had any questions for him. Obviously, he was looking very tired and so was I, so I preferred not to ask any those typical boring questions and just said thank you and left the room.

And at around 11:10 pm the results were announced and I was among the selected students 😊
Also 2 of my friends from my class were selected for DAA role.

Some general tips:

- Be thorough with your resume.
  We all want to show off our skills and what not in our resume. That is good, but if you are not able to justify those skills and points in your resume, then it leaves a very bad impression. The same happened with me in my UBS interview.
  And specially your projects are the most important point in your resume, so please go through them properly and also have some content ready to speak if someone asks about them in detail.
- Practice puzzles
  You can refer GFG for puzzles.
- For aptitude you can refer to YouTube videos (I referred to this playlist)
  And practice on IndiaBIX (best site I would say)
- And be confident.
  If you get rejected, then obviously anyone would feel sad, but then analyse the mistakes you made, and work on them.
  Eg: I couldn't crack UBS bcz of some extra things in my resume on which I was grilled and I was not able to speak on those points properly. So, I removed those points from resume :)
- And yes, LUCK matters the most (personal opinion)
  But this is not in your hand. Just keep working hard, we all will achieve our dream one day.

Itne din se andhera chhaya tha, aaj Suraj chamak gaya
- my friend

Feel free to connect with me if you have any queries or questions related to the process.
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