# INTERVIEW PREPARATION NOTES

**Position**: Entry-Level ICT Graduate / Junior Developer

**Company:** [Company Name]

**Date:** [Interview Date]

**Prepared by:** Thimna Gogwana

**Status:** Third-Year ICT Student

---

# 1. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS PREPARATION

## Programming/Technical Skills

Q: What technical skills have you developed in your studies?

- Programming:  Java, Python, SQL, HTML/CSS/JavaScript

- Tools: GitHub, Visual Studio Code, MySQL Workbench

- Concepts: OOP, Database Design, Networking Fundamentals, Web Development

- Currently Learning: [ICT: Application Development]

Q: How do you apply your technical knowledge practically?

*STAR Format:*

- **S:** In applications development practise , we were required to build a responsive website from scratch

- **T:** Create a functional e-commerce site with shopping cart and user authentication

- **A:** Used HTML5/CSS3 for structure and styling, JavaScript for interactivity, local storage for data persistence, and conducted cross-browser testing

- **R:** Achieved 88% grade, demonstrated problem-solving by debugging layout issues, and built a portfolio piece I'm proud of

---

## 2. BEHAVIORAL QUESTIONS (STAR PREPARATION - USING ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES)

### Teamwork & Collaboration

**Q: Describe your experience working in teams**

- **S:** Database Systems group project with 4 classmates to design a library management system

- **T:** Divide responsibilities and deliver a complete system within 4 weeks

- **A:** Used Trello for task management, Git for version control, held weekly sync meetings, created documentation

- **R:** Completed project 3 days early, received 85% grade, learned to coordinate with diverse skill levels

### Problem-Solving Ability

**Q: Tell me about a technical challenge you overcame**

- **S:** During my web commerce project , my GitHub Pages deployment failed with CSS not loading

- **T:** Diagnose and fix the issue before submission deadline

- **A:** Used browser developer tools to identify path errors, researched solutions online, tested fixes locally first

- **R:** Resolved in 2 hours, website deployed successfully, learned importance of testing deployments

### Learning & Adaptability

**Q: How do you approach learning new technologies?**

- **S:** Needed to learn React.js for a class presentation but had only basic JavaScript knowledge

- **T:** Understand core concepts well enough to create a demo application in 2 weeks

- **A:** Completed online tutorials, built small practice projects, studied documentation, joined coding communities

- **R:** Successfully delivered presentation with working demo, now comfortable with React fundamentals

### Time Management

**Q: How do you handle multiple deadlines?**

- **S:** Final exam period with 3 project submissions and 4 exams in one week

- **T:** Deliver quality work for all commitments while maintaining well-being

- **A:** Created detailed schedule using time-blocking, prioritized tasks, used Pomodoro technique, scheduled breaks

- **R:** Submitted all projects on time (grades 80%+), performed well in exams, avoided burnout

---

# 3. COMPANY-SPECIFIC PREPARATION

### Why This Company?:

- "I've been following [Company's] work in [specific area] and I'm impressed by [specific project/achievement]"

- "Your company's graduate development program aligns with my career goals"

- "I'm particularly interested in how you use [technology they mention]"

### Why Hire a Student?:

- "As a recent student, I bring fresh perspectives and current technical knowledge"

- "I'm eager to apply my academic learning in a real-world environment"

- "I have strong foundational knowledge and am excited to specialize in your technology stack"

**My Value Proposition:**

- "Strong academic foundation in ICT fundamentals"

- "Proven ability to quickly learn new technologies (example: learned React in 2 weeks)"

- "Excellent problem-solving skills demonstrated through academic projects"

- "Fresh perspective and enthusiasm for the industry"

---

# 4. QUESTIONS TO ASK INTERVIEWER

### For Graduate Roles:

1. "What kind of training and mentorship can I expect as a new graduate?"

2. "What are the most important qualities you look for in entry-level candidates?"

3. "How does the company support ongoing learning and certification?"

4. "Could you describe the typical career path for someone starting in this role?"

### About Team & Culture:

5. "What do you enjoy most about the company culture here?"

6. "How would you describe the team dynamic I'd be joining?"

### About the Role:

7. "What are the biggest challenges someone new to this role typically faces?"

8. "What does success look like in the first 3-6 months?"

---

## 5. ADDRESSING LIMITED EXPERIENCE

**When asked about experience gaps:**

**Response:** "While I may not have extensive professional experience yet, my academic projects have given me strong foundational knowledge and practical skills. For example, in my [Project Name], I [brief achievement]. I'm eager to apply this learning and grow within your organization."

**Emphasize strengths as a student:**

- "Current with latest technologies and methodologies"

- "Proven ability to learn quickly and adapt"

- "Strong academic performance demonstrates commitment"

- "Enthusiastic and motivated to build a career"