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SAP Labs

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# PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE

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## *Preparation Tips*

### Coding:

Focus more on coding as 75 percent of the whole placement process depends upon this. Especially be thorough with all types of Data Structures and Algorithms because this is where the interviewer tends to concentrate more to understand your way of thinking.

In order to improve your programming skills, practice coding as frequently as possible. For Interview Specific problems , LeetCode would be the best choice to practice with, as it covers every interview problems with all types of difficulty with good solutions.

Apart from this Competitive programming is major plus point , and the best sites to practice is CodeChef, CodeForces ,HackerRank etc.

Geeksforgeeks is best site for enhancing programming skills , and while referring to a problem in Geeksforgeeks , learn entirely about the problem, that is : problem statement, concept, logic, brute force and all types of methods of solution, time complexity and space complexity, and its application.

### Projects( Highly Important ):

2-3 solid projects is must as during placements these will provide the information about your skills and knowledge to the interviewer and he will definitely focus on this and ask in depth questions.

Questions based on projects are most frequently asked in managerial round and the interviewer will not only focus on your capabilities but your ability to play as a team player as well. While doing a project as a team, learn the basic concepts and technologies used by your fellow teammate as well and understand the efforts put by your fellow teammate.

Also while doing an project , don't limit your knowledge and explore deeply into the project making it more efficient as possible.

### **Core Subjects:**

Strengthening the below mentioned subjects is mandatory and please go through all types of interview questions on these topics.

***DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS***

***OOPS***

***OS***

***DBMS***

***NETWORKING***

***SOFTWARE ENGINEERING***

***PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE SPECIFIC PROBLEMS***

### **Aptitude and Verbal:**

One of the major barrier is to get selected in the first round of the interview which mostly involves testing your aptitude and verbal skills. There is no comparison in the interview phase and you will be tested for only your knowledge but however for the online test, unlike the interview phase, selection will be relative and only the best will be selected for interview. Hence you must be strong in your aptitude and verbal skills.

Sometimes Aptitude plays a role in the interview phase as the interviewer might ask aptitude based questions and most of these questions will be standard interview puzzles.

For puzzle based questions It is enough if you go through all these :

[“https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/puzzles/”](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/puzzles/) .

### **Internships:**

Though personally I have not done any internships, Internships are a major plus point and always grab your opportunities to do an internship. Since you are going to work in a corporate, most companies prefer candidates with prior work experience but it is not a must.

While doing an internship, try to learn as much as possible from the organization and replicate that on your resume.

### **Certifications:**

Major certifications like CCNA, CCDSAP, AWS carry a lot of weightage to your resume.

Apart from this, additional certifications from Udemy, Coursera etc can also be done in a specific fields (for example like Machine Learning) according to your interests.

### **Competitions:**

Participate in as much contests as you can. These contests can be competitive programming contests like

*Google Hashcode*

*Google Kickstart*

*Google Codejam*

*Facebook Hackercup*

*TCS Codevita*

*ICPC*

Or Hackathons. Winning and participating in such competitions makes you differentiated apart from the crowd and interviewer will get to know that you are a type of person who take additional time to learn new things apart from academics , and that is what the company expects from you.

### **Research and Papers:**

Least priority but adds more weightage to your resume than the rest.

### **Resume:**

Foremost important thing is your resume. Your resume is your identity when it comes to placements. It defines you entirely, your info, interests, skillset, personality, professionalism, almost everything. So make sure to put the best in your resume.

## ***Interview Experience (SAP LABS)***

### **Coding Test:**

The First step in the placement process of SAP Labs is a coding test with 2 coding questions. The question of this round was pretty much very easy, but the competition was too high as there is not just one campus but three with total participant count around 800.

But since I was practicing a lot in LeetCode, these question were very easy to code. One question was related to strings and the one was related to prime numbers.

The advantage I got over the prime numbers question was that I used the most efficient concept known as Sieve of Eratosthenes ("<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/sieve-of-eratosthenes/>") while others used simple approaches to solve the problem.

**TIPS: BE MORE CAREFUL WHENEVER THE PROBLEM STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE VERY EASY, BECAUSE IT IS IN THESE TYPES OF PROBLEM WHERE THERE IS A LOT OF CORNER TEST CASES. MAKE SURE YOUR LOGIC COVERS IT ALL. INCASE IF THERE EXISTS MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS TO SOLVE, CODE THE MOST EFFICIENT ONE**

FOR BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING SELECTED. PLUS IF POSSIBLE, TRY TO ADD COMMENTS FOR YOUR CODE.

### **Pair Coding (Round 1):**

In this Round, the interviewer shared a site with me and gave two problems and asked me to code it while he can also monitor my way and entire steps while coding.

First problem was to remove every alternate elements from a list. It was a pretty easy problem and successfully I mentioned him the ideas and coded it.

The second problem was 3-Sum Problem (<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/find-triplets-array-whose-sum-equal-zero/>) where given a list I have to find all triplets in the list such that the sum is zero.

To be frank and honest, I didn't code this problem entirely, but I did grab the interviewers attention and mentioned all possible kinds of solution, time and space complexity, language specific constraints and inbuilt functions for that particular problem.

**TIPS: THINK OUT ALOUD, WHATEVER IDEAS POP INTO YOUR MIND, EXPLAIN IT TO HIM IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER IT IS BRUTE OR EFFICIENT.**

**IF THERE ARE MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS, EXPLAIN THAT AS WELL AND DON'T FORGET TO ANALYSIS THE TIME AND SPACE COMPLEXITY AND TELL HIM THAT TOO. IF YOU DON'T CODE THE ENTIRE SOLUTION, IT DOESN'T MATTER, ALL THAT MATTERS IS YOUR WAY OF THINKING AND EXPLAINING THAT LOGIC. ALSO, INTERVIEWER EXPECTS YOU TO FOCUS ON THE CORNER TEST CASES OF THE PROBLEM AS WELL AND SO BE CAREFUL AND ACKNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE TEST CASES.**

### **Technical (Round 2):**

For me this was a simple round. This is the round where the interviewer will test your basics in Computer science and focus on the core subjects like DSA, DBMS, OS, OOPS etc.

Also few questions on puzzles, aptitude and projects can be expected. There was nothing difficult about this round for me and was pretty smooth.

**TIPS: BE SURE OF WHAT YOU KNOW ESPECIALLY YOUR BASICS AND PROJECT.**

### **Managerial (Round 3):**

This was a 30 min duration round. I was asked about few of my projects, the challenges I faced in the project and how I overcame that. Questions based on my areas of interest

Since my interests was on machine learning the interviewer asked me the factors I would consider while starting to work on a ML project and how I would choose my algorithms.

And few questions based on my elective: IOT and its applications. Plus I was also asked about my views about working alone and working with a team on a project.

And the final question was "Where do you see yourselves in five years?".

**TIPS: THE MAIN OBJECTIVE OF THIS ROUND IS TO EVALUATE YOUR PERSONALITY ON A BEHAVIOUR LEVEL BY FOCUSING ON YOUR PROJECTS. SO BE CONFIDENT ABOUT YOUR PROJECTS. EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW CERTAIN THINGS, IT IS OK TO**

SAY "I DON'T KNOW" AS THE ROUND FOCUSES ON HOW YOU TACKLE THINGS AND NOT WHAT YOU. FOR EVERY QUESTION THAT IS BEING PUT TO YOU, TRY TO BE ELABORATIVE BUT DON'T MAKE IT TOO LONG. ALSO FOR EVERY QUESTION DON'T JUST FOCUS ON THE TECHNICAL OR JUST NON TECHNICAL, TRY TO INCLUDE BOTH TECHNICAL AND NON TECHNICAL ASPECTS AND PRESENT THAT POINT OF VIEW.

#### **HR (Round 4):**

This was the most professional round and minute things about your soft skills will be noticed and pressure will be laid upon you to understand your level of confidence.

Also few questions from pre-placement talk were asked so please don't omit the pre-placement talk of the company.

Situation based questions were presented and was asked how i would react to that. Some of the questions were:

*How would you manage your work like balance?*

*What will you do if you get rejected in this interview?*

*How will you maintain your competitive nature even under an pressure of work?*

*If there is a difference of opinion in your team , how will you tackle it and quote an example from your life where you have exhibited the same.*

TIPS: BE CONFIDENT. ARTICULATE YOUR THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS WELL . A SMILE ON YOUR FACE ALWAYS MAKE THINGS EASIER. EVEN IF YOU ENCOUNTER A NEGATIVE INTEROGATION , FACE IT POSITIVELY. GO THROUGH THE PRODUCTS OF THE COMPANY AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS.

#### **RESULTS:**

The entire process was real quick and happened in just two days. After all the processes I was one among the ten finalists of the company!

## ***Personal Opinions and Strategy***

All the companies want to hire you for the person whom you are, but they only expect the best, so there is no need for one to change himself for the company, try to be the best in your field. Don't follow the approach of "Fake it, Till you make it!". Whatever it is, give it an honest attempt. Placement is not just about getting into the company, it is about surviving in the company as well, so only if you give an honest attempt you can accommodate yourself into the company.

Also every company expects an extra amount of dedication from you, they try to analyse this by the efforts you try to learn apart from your academics whether it be participating in additional contests, research, projects and certification courses. So choose a field you are interested in and explore and try to become the best in that field.

Since I was interested in Data structures and Algorithms, I was onto competitive programming and would try to participate in every contest I get a chance. Even though I have not done any internships or certifications during the placement process I invested most of my time in interview specific problems in LeetCode and that is how I cracked the Interview. And I also revised my core subjects and knew in and out of my projects.

In order to get better clarity and atmosphere about the placements, go through various interview experience in websites and YouTube and try to gather their experiences as well.

Plus the CIR Backup Material for interview is extremely useful.

Refer the same:

[“https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1wM5QLbOzmfUFdTdVdJY3pTREk”](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1wM5QLbOzmfUFdTdVdJY3pTREk).

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# ALL THE VERY BEST!!!