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Branch: CSE (Data Science)

Company: Think360.ai (<https://www.think360.ai/>)

Role: Data Analyst

Batch: 2024

Round 0: Aptitude + Coding Test (Time Limit: 2 hours) (Online)

The aptitude test was conducted on 14th September 2023, on an online platform called Coderbyte. Applicants were allowed to appear for this test remotely.

It had 4 basic-to-intermediate coding-related challenges:

- a. SQL Challenge (simple query)
- b. Excel Challenge (simple function)
- c. Statistics Challenge (simple algorithm in language of choice - preferably python)
- d. String Challenge (simple problem in language of choice - preferably python)

It also had 5 behavioral questions that tested your self-awareness and introspection skills.

It consisted of a cumulative 20-25 arithmetic, mathematical, logical, and English lingual questions.

The test was quite easy, and I was able to complete it in 1.5 hours. For the role of Data Analyst, 40 applicants were selected for the next round; to be conducted offline in the college campus.

Round 1: Group Discussion (Duration: 15 mins)

This format was only for the role of Data Analyst, owing to a large number of applicants. We were divided into groups of 5 or 6, and called for a group discussion. Our group was given the topic 'Future of Electric Vehicles in India'. Some other topics given to various groups included 'What is better - Aliens controlling Earth or Artificial Intelligence taking us over?', etc. We were first asked to introduce ourselves individually (tip: mention your co-curricular and/or extra-curricular interests as well, they try to find a common ground before assigning the topic) The recruiter explained some basic rules and started the timer. Some points you should consider:

1. Ask for permission from others if you wish to begin or conclude the discussion when prompted.
2. Never cut someone else in between.
3. No personal remarks and/or inappropriate reactions/gestures.
4. Start by mentioning the positive and brighter points, but sneak in a concern/risk before finishing your line - cite examples, latest news, relevant quotes/movies in a formal manner.
5. Mention pressing issues with the said topic as well - but don't try to be too neutral.
6. You may subtly raise your hand to indicate you wish to speak next.
7. Start your point with an affirmation of agreeing / respectfully disagreeing / acknowledging the previous speaker.

3 out of the 5 members of our group were selected, including myself. A total of 12 applicants were eliminated after this round.

Round 2: Technical Interview (Average Duration: 30 minutes)

My interview lasted 40 minutes.

The recruiter introduced himself first and asked me to briefly introduce myself. He then proceeded in a phased manner and asked me in-depth questions based on my resume. Be it internships, team experience, certifications, and projects - know every nook and corner of your resume in detail. While explaining your projects, be elaborate; mention the technologies and algorithms used, methodology followed, reason for using a particular technique, conceptual technicalities, etc.

They tend to cross-question on your approach while using a said technique - firmly explain the reasons and how other alternatives would not have given a better result. Know the metrics for data transformation and result analysis. Know the layout and functionalities of your tech-stack thoroughly. For this role, you'll majorly need to be good with Python and Tableau / PowerBI.

Note: Always carry a book/paper and pen with you.

He then asked me a guesstimate - 'How much in paint (in liters) would you require to paint newly constructed buildings in your area?'

You can (and should) cross-question with queries, assumptions, and more details about the question.

They only want your approach to be right - there are no correct answers.

He then asked me if I had any questions. I asked about the training culture for freshly joined recruits, and also how soon would I get involved in actual client interaction.

Round 3: Senior Management Round (Duration: 15 minutes)

I expected it to be a behavioral/HR round, but it was more like a company fit-check round. The recruiter asked me about my roles in various co-curricular teams. She then expressed her delight when she saw I had carried a book and pen along with me. She proceeded to make a probability-based question by looking at some broken shelves in our lab.

"There are 3 bottles. Calculate the probability that either one of these 3 bottles are placed in either one of the broken shelves."

I counted the shelves, made the calculations and gave her the answer.

She then asked me a puzzle.

(<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/puzzle-9-find-the-fastest-3-horses/>)

I got half-way correctly before she lost me, so she sat beside me and we solved the question together. It may appear to you that she's leading you towards an answer - be firm and contradict her when you think so. My answer was marginally wrong but she did not mention that.

She then asked me about my current residence and how I would travel to their office. She then let me ask her a few questions, and I asked about her experience in the company and we exchanged some light jokes about attrition in IT firms. We then exchanged pleasantries and concluded the interview.

3 applicants were selected for this role, including me. They selected a total of 10 applicants across the 4 roles they offered.