

Task 2

Model Answer – Video 2

Video Transcript

Hi I'm Randi Griffin. Pronouns she/her.

I'm a senior data scientist at the Boston Consulting Group, where we help clients develop solutions for a wide variety of business problems using a mix of statistics, machine learning, data visualization and software engineering.

Whiteboard challenges are meant to reveal how you think and collaborate when solving a problem at a high level, where details like code syntax and development environments won't get in your way.

Most importantly, whiteboard interviews simulate a real brainstorming session, giving both you and the interviewer an opportunity to experience what it's like to work shoulder to shoulder.

Whiteboard interviews are both technical and behavioural, since your demeanor and communication style throughout the interview matter as much or even more than your solution.

Hiring managers want to see that you seem relaxed, confident and excited to be there. Ask clarifying questions to ensure that you understand the problem before writing a solution.

Take time to plan your solution instead of rushing because you're nervous.

Engage with the interviewer throughout the session to ensure that you're on track.

Remain calm if the interviewer adds complexity or challenges your solution.

And of course, you should present a clear, logical solution.

In this simple whiteboard challenge, I'd look for the candidate to first confirm their understanding of the task by asking clarifying questions and then take some time to plan a solution.

Finally, develop a simple solution, which doesn't overcomplicate the problem.

Common red flags could include jumping to solutions before understanding the problem, struggling with the problem silently instead of engaging the interviewer, getting sidetracked by irrelevant details, showing a bad attitude such as frustration if you find the problem hard, or arrogance if you find the problem easy, and of course, presenting an incorrect solution.

My biggest advice is to relax and take your time asking questions and setting up the problem.

If a solution does not immediately jump out, it's completely acceptable to ask for a few minutes to think quietly before engaging the interviewer at the whiteboard.

In the next video, you'll learn more about coding tests.