Common HR questions

# Tell me about yourself

Hi! I am Rishav. I was born and raised in West Bengal. After my high school was over, I moved to Hyderabad to pursue my bachelor's. I had a great affinity for optimization that was one of the factors which motivated me to join this course in Operational Research. Currently, I am also a part of the placement cell of my department. I love to write creative technical articles; thus, I own a blog on Medium. Some of my other hobbies are playing Guitar, Harmonica, and Chess. In my humble opinion, perspective and proper communication can solve almost any non-technical problem, so I constantly try to integrate this into my conversations. In fact, to widen my spectrum of thoughts, I have also started learning a different language: Spanish. I have also done a couple of projects and written two articles related to Data Science concepts with a somewhat different perspective.

**Side question: Why not pursue your hobbies as a career?**

* A hobby is an activity that is done in one’s leisure time. I am not passionate about playing Guitar or Chess. Constant working gets us stressed right, so these hobbies are a go-to place for me to take a short break, calm myself down, and get back on track.

# Strengths and Weaknesses

1. **Hard-working**. I realized this during my bachelor’s when, along with my college studies, I simultaneously worked part-time to support my expenses.
2. I have good **attention to detail** and I am **extremely organized** while working on anything, which is something I think I have developed naturally. Even if the smallest of errors in a project or anything related is not fixed or if there is no optimal structure, it gets me a bit obsessed to fix that first.
3. I consider myself to be a person who **doesn’t let any learning opportunity slide by**. In my resume, the first certification you will see is the one in Machine Learning and Data Science. This was a free course that began one day before my final semester examinations began and there were limited enrolments. I was scared initially because that would mean not paying 100% attention to my ongoing exams. But after attending one session, I connected with the learning style of the trainer so much that I grabbed this opportunity with both hands.

***Extra****:* I also learned Python during the lockdown and within 7 months got a part-time job as a Python instructor.

So, yeah, these are some of the qualities which I believe are my strengths. Now, coming to my weaknesses:

1. I think I realized this while working on the projects I mentioned. So, when I take up a job or a project or an article that I am really excited to do, I get a little too much involved and stop focusing on other equally important aspects of my life. To work on this, I have been creating to-do lists and I try to make sure that all the tasks in it are checked off by the end of the day. Doing this now gives me more control.

Stick to one weakness. If necessary, say the following:

# Why should we hire you?

The job description demands {} and I believe all the necessary skills. Give examples. I may not be the fastest at it but I do love understanding and solving problems. I think my skills in organization and attention to detail would certainly add a lot of value to the company.

# Where do you see yourself five years from now?

The way I understand it is the best way to progress in any endeavour is to set measurable goals. Those goals could be of two types: - short-term and long-term. So, 5 years down the line… I see it as a long-term goal. So, I think on a professional level I would see myself leading a team, leading a project, being a good leader to a team of highly motivated individuals; passing on the wisdom and experience I would have gained over the years. And to get there, I would set smaller goals. Those goals could be of two types: technical goals which could be as simple as learning new sets of tools or technologies that could be useful a few years down the line. Or non-technical skills like I would invest time further improving my communication skills, my leadership skills. I would also keep studying and keep this brain used to understanding the theoretical aspects.

# Why choose this?

XYZ’s reputation is certainly a factor. Also, a connection who has been working here tells me that…

# What motivates you?

Of course, monetary compensation provides a big motivation to push to the limits but I think at the start of my career I would be driven by a good work-life balance, a challenging environment and an inherent job satisfaction which I would get if I can solve problems and learn from them.

# Tell me something that is not in your resume.

The things that are not mentioned in my resume are: -

1. Your hobbies.
2. Your experience with 3 part-time works.
3. Your strengths (if not asked before).

# Success vs Failure. What is success to you?

# Do you have any questions for me?

Sample questions, depending on how well the interview goes:

1. Yes, what does a typical day at xyz look like?
2. If you were to not select me today, what would be the reason?