

How did you prepare?

Top Topics:

- Data Structures: Trees, Linked List, Stack, Queues and Array etc.
- Algorithms: Divide and Conquer, Greedy, Dynamic Programming and Backtracking etc.
- Concepts: Searching, Sorting, 2 pointer, Bit manipulation, Recursion, Math manipulation, Pre computation etc.
- OOPS: Key Concepts in detail such as Inheritance, Polymorphism, Encapsulation, Abstraction. Virtual Function, Abstract Function and Friend Function etc.
- Database Management System: Normalization, Joins, Nested Queries, Scalar and Aggregate functions and Transaction properties (ACID) etc.
- Clear knowledge about differences between C, C++, Java and Python and between POP and OOP.

Duration of Preparation:

4-5 months

Preparation Tips:

- 1) As a fresher, interviewer wants you to have clear knowledge of basics and they want to see your ability to approach a problem and solve it. So, instead of spending time on trying to explore new technologies focus on problem solving and especially DSA.
- 2) Spend at least half hour daily on aptitude and problem solving. Because first round of many companies includes aptitude questions and many a times puzzles are asked by interviewer to test your problem-solving skills. For puzzles, GeeksforGeeks offer good variety and indiabix is a great platform for aptitude practice, if aptitude concepts are not clear, I would recommend to go through 'R S Agarwal Quantitative Analysis' book as it offers great explanation of concepts and then good range of problems to practice.
- 3) Do at least 3 programming problems each day. There are many good platforms available nowadays such as for beginners: Hackerrank, Codechef and then after good grasp of concepts you can move ahead to Leetcode and Codeforces.

How did you apply?

Where did you apply?

On Campus

Any Eligibility Criteria?

7 Cgpa and above in the current course and no Active backlogs.

Resume Tips:

- 1) Only mention those terms in resume in which you are confident because many a time interviewer has your resume open with them and they are going through it at the same time. So, they can ask any thing you have mentioned in it.
- 2) Resume should be short, simple and quite formal. There is no need to mention unnecessary things such as hobbies in it but mentioning co-curricular activities creates good impression.
- 3) Do mention link to your profile on LinkedIn and if you practice coding on any platform, you can mention URL link of that too.

Why do you think you were shortlisted?

While practicing, instead of just thinking about efficient approach, I used to start with brute force and then keep optimizing my solution to reach till most efficient approach which was being judged on the basis of time and space complexity. This practice helped me to approach problems and solve them efficiently in my coding round. I invested time in researching about Company for which I was shortlisted and getting to know about its starting time, core values, annual events, CEO's name and all such details creates a good impression. Being honest with my answers and going through whole hiring process with a positive attitude created a good impression. I had a very clear idea about my project and internship work and explaining every detail of these in an interesting manner lead to interviewer being quite impressed from me.

Number of Rounds?**How many rounds were there?**

Four

First Round Details:

Round Type:	Online Coding Round
Date of Round:	23-08-2021
Difficulty of Round:	Medium
Duration of Round:	120 minutes
Platform:	https://app.codility.com/
Location of Round:	From your Home

Description of Round:

The test was active on 23-Aug-2021 and the candidate had to attempt it between 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The duration of test was 120 minutes. The test link was shared 5 minutes prior of scheduled time with us.

The Camera and microphone were to be switched on through the whole duration of test. There was only one section of 3 coding questions and no aptitude problems.

Why was I shortlisted in this round?

Instead of just submitting any brute force approach, my focus was on submitting efficient approach which would also take care of edge cases and keep a check on space as well as time complexity.

Problem Types:

Data Structures and Algorithms

Problem Description:

- 1) Robot Room Cleaner
- 1) Direct Application of Optimal File Merge Pattern
- 2) Maximum Odd Array Decomposition

Tips for solving Problems:

- 1) Have a clear knowledge of not just about Data structures but also about algorithms.
- 2) Don't just go for submission but also do consider time and space complexity of your code.
- 3) Do consider edge cases for your code.

Second Round Details:

Round Type:	Video Call
Date of Round:	27-08-2021
Difficulty of Round:	Medium
Duration of Round:	30 minutes
Platform:	Webex meetings

Description of Round:

The round started at 10:00 am and lasted for approx. 30 minutes. We were getting all updates timely through a WhatsApp group. Various panel meeting links were forwarded to us prior day of interview. We were told the timing and panel no. of our interview. On entering the call, the interviewer asked me to switch on camera and microphone. The interviewer was really supportive and helpful.

Why was I shortlisted in this round?

I was quite confident in my answers and explained every term I was asked in depth. I had a good knowledge about my project and everything mentioned in resume which I was able to answer.

Interview Problem Details:

- 1) At first, I was told to introduce myself. To do the same I mentioned my name, my course, branch and university and my current cgpa. I mentioned my interest lies in DSA, DBMS and OOPs. Then I went ahead to explain my project's functionality.
- 2) Various differences were asked to me such as between C and C++, POP and OOP etc.
- 3) What are the key features of OOPs? Instead of just naming them, I went ahead to explain all of them in depth with example.
- 4) Explanation of my projects? Walking through and technology used and packages to connect them. Whole project and basics should be very clear of it.
- 5) As my project was in python. Interviewer asked few syntaxes and technical questions from python.
- 6) Few questions about basics of Java were also asked from me.
- 7) Why do you wish to join American Express?

Tips for Interview:

- 1) Have your basics clear of everything you mention in your resume.
- 2) Do Research about company you are joining.

Third Round Details:

Round Type:	Video Call
Date of Round:	27-08-2021
Difficulty of Round:	Medium
Duration of Round:	25 minutes
Platform:	Webex meetings

Description of Round:

The round started at 11:30 am and lasted for approx. 25 minutes. We waited and kept a check for update on WhatsApp group. On getting my details, I entered interview panel. After being asked to switch on camera and mic, there was a discussion on my projects and current internship.

Why was I shortlisted in this round?

I was shortlisted because my basics and concepts were quite clear of python, my projects and current internship. As my interviewer was quite curious about my internship, there was a good discussion on the same.

Interview Problem Details:

- 1) At first, I was told to introduce myself. To do the same I mentioned my name, my course, branch and university and my current cgpa. I mentioned my interest lies in DSA, DBMS and OOPs. Then I went ahead to explain my project's functionality. I also mentioned about my internship.

- 2) I was asked to explain my project in depth, the idea, the tech used, how it worked, what features we added, why we choose what we choose and all such clarification.
- 3) Similar discussion followed on my internship, what work we are doing, dataset given to us and basic pipeline followed on it.
- 4) Why do you wish to join American Express?
- 5) Some behavioral questions project related such as how you brainstormed this idea, problems faced during team work.

Tips for Interview:

- 1) Have your basics clear of every term you mention in resume. It might be possible that interviewer ask you to run your project for him so be prepared for that.
- 2) Do mention the specific part you worked in project. As project is a team work so never underestimate your teammate's work in front of interviewer and give them credit for there part. It shows that you have ability to work in team and creates a good impression.

Fourth Round Details:

Round Type:	Video Call
Date of Round:	27-08-2021
Difficulty of Round:	Medium
Duration of Round:	35 minutes
Platform:	Webex meetings

Description of Round:

The round started at 1:00 pm and lasted for approx. 35 minutes. We waited and kept a check for update on WhatsApp group. On getting my details, I entered interview panel. After being asked to switch on camera and mic, there was a discussion on my projects and discussion on behavioral and situational questions.

Why was I shortlisted in this round?

I was shortlisted because I explained about myself to the point and clearly went through my project details. After that, I was quite honest and genuine with all situations given to me and we had a good discussion on the same.

Interview Problem Details:

- 1) t first, I was told to introduce myself. To do the same I mentioned my name, my course, branch and university and my current cgpa. I mentioned my interest lies in DSA, DBMS and OOPs. Then I went ahead to explain my project's functionality. I also mentioned about my internship.
- 2) I was asked to explain my project in depth, the idea, the tech used, how it worked, what features we added, why we choose what we choose and all such clarification.

- 3) Then, I was given a situation and we had a long discussion on what I would do and why I would choose my actions in that way. Situation was: I have to choose a tech out of 10 options on which I would be working in future. So, what will I choose and why? And then many questions followed in the path I was answering.
- 4) Many behavioral questions were asked. Such as: Have I faced failure and how did I have dealt with it. What would be my course of action if my superior gives me negative feedback in public place.

Tips for Interview:

- 1) Be honest and genuine with your answers. Being confident with your choice of action gives a good impression.
- 2) Don't get scared if interviewer keeps grilling you on some situation.
- 3) It doesn't look good to deny facing of any situation when asked by interviewer. As they know, you are a fresher they would be giving situations which you can relate. So, answer in the same manner. Don't just say "If I face any such situation, I will be doing...". Interviewer appreciates answers in which you tell how you overcame that situation in your past real life.