



DSA 101 + Technical Interview Tips

Timeline

Crucial Months

- May, June, July, August

Targets to hit before placement season

- Getting good grip on DSA
- Strengthening CS Core fundamentals
- Mock Interviews

DSA Prep

Beginners

Free/Cheap courses to learn basic programming

1. Cpp :

<https://www.udemy.com/course/cpp-data-structures-algorithms-prateek-narang/>

2. Java : <https://www.pepcoding.com/resources/>

3. Python :

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSzsOkUDsvdvGZ2fXGizY_Iz9j8-ZlLqh

DSA Prep

Intermediate

SDE sheets to practice basic concepts along with tutorials

1. [Striver Sheet](#)
2. [Love Babbar Sheet](#)

DSA Prep

Resources for practicing questions

1. Interviewbit
2. Leetcode for structured problem solving
3. LeetCode biweekly and Weekly Contests
4. Codechef / CodeForces Contests

DSA Prep

DSA Book for reference

1. [Coding Interview Questions By Narasimha Karumanchi](#)
2. Topic wise resources - [DSA Resources](#)

Core CS Resources

- **COMPUTER NETWORKS**

Youtube- https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLxCzCOWd7aiGFBD2-2joCpWOLUrDLvVV_

- **DBMS**

Youtube-

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmXKhU9FNesR1rSES7oLdJaNFgmuj0SYV>

Notes- <https://lecturenotes.in/l/ap01095536>

- **OOPS** [Object Oriented Programming \(1\).pdf](#)

- **Operating System**

Youtube- <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmXKhU9FNesSFvj6gASuWmQd23Ul5omtD>

Drive- [Operating System Notes.pdf](#)

GFG- <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/operating-systems/>

Flow of interview

- Introduction about yourself- keep it short and crisp
- DSA questions - make sure to ask about constraints
- time and space complexity
- move from brute force to optimised code
- CS Fundamentals
- HR type questions, behavioural- mostly revolves around you, time management, teamwork and strategic planning
- Question for interviewer - Prepare 1-2 questions in advance by researching about the company.

Interview prep material

<https://leetcode.com/problem-list/top-interview-questions/>

<https://leetcode.com/problem-list/top-100-liked-questions/>

Questions Related to Projects

<https://www.coursera.org/articles/project-management-interview-questions>

Projects could be mainly on- for technical domain

- Web Development
- Android Development
- Blockchain and Web 3
- AI/ ML domain

Note

- Revise thoroughly the tech stacks
- Remember the Schema
- Be prepared for open ended questions
- Might discuss about scalability
- Don't fake things

Behavioral Questions

- If you are a good fit to the company
- Time management tactics
- Teamwork and coordination among peers
- Hypothetical Questions about some situation and impact
- Leadership related stuffs
- Based on company's values

Behavioural Questions list-

<https://novoresume.com/career-blog/behavioral-interview-questions>

Pre Interview Prep

- Give Mock interviews on Pramp and Interviewbit
- Research a bit about the company
- Do read the resume beforehand
- Practice for Behavioural questions
- Read interview experience on GFG/ Leetcode (recent ones)
- If you use standard libraries in code, make sure to know its complexities and implementation

During Interview

- Ask clarifying questions
- Ensure you have understood the question correctly
- Create 2-3 sample test cases on your own and verify the above point
- Start with brute force and then optimize
- Ask for hints if stuck
- Start with brute force and optimize
- Do not change the input types eg: try working with the data in the format it is given.

During Interview

- Be vocal. Your thought process matters
- Start writing code only when you get the green signal from interviewer
- While writing code, keep explaining it
- Do not beat around the bush if you don't know the answer.
- Always mention TC and SC at the end irrespective of whether the interviewer has asked for it or not
- Always ask questions at the end

Finding Opportunities

- Be active on LinkedIn and add people from companies you wish to join
- Follow people who posts about jobs on linkedin like Arsh goyal & Kushal Vijay
- Regularly check LinkedIn jobs, telegram job groups and company websites
- Mentro - Platform where jobs are posted
- Unstop - Platform with competitions for job opportunities

Referrals

- Referrals increase the chances to get interviews
- Good linkedin profile is important (details) (Sample profile), connections
- Template to reach out - to the point message
 - Intro(1-2 lines), achievements(2-3), link of role, hoping to hear back, thanks, resume
 - (Very less people reply)
- Reach out to college seniors first

IMP NOTE

Whenever you are sharing your resume with anyone for review/referral ensure that you are

sending them a

have view permissions.

LINK

and not a PDF copy. Also ensure that they

Pro Tip

Have a folder on your local to track the versions of your resume and keep a note of which version are you sending to which company

Applying to international opportunities

- Why to apply: less competition, easier interviews, international exposure
- Where (eligibility): visa requirements
 - Can't apply directly in US, Australia
 - Can - UK, Singapore, Germany, Japan
- How: MAANG or other top companies websites
- Even many startups provide such exposure and opportunities
- PPP (purchasing power parity) : do make sure compensation is good enough against the expenses there
- Do research about process/interviews

Indirect Job Opportunities

- What are they - programs, hackathons, scholarships-
- (Google STEP, DESIS Ascend, Adobe WIT, Facebook Hacker cup, Microsoft Engage)
- Be actively involved, performance matters
- Be curious, ask a lot of questions

Additional Resources

- C++ free course from basics to advanced DSA by Aman Dhattarwal (Apna college):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfqMhTWNBTeb2nM6JHVCnAkhQRGiZMSJ>
- DSA One course (free) by Anuj Bhaiya (using Java/C++):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUcsbZa0qzu3yNzzAxgvSgRobdUUJvz7p>
- DSA in Java from basics from Apna college (free):
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfqMhTWNBTeb3LtFWcvwpqTkUSIB32kJop>
- Technical mock interviews from Keerti Purswani, especially for first-time interviewees:
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLliXPok7Zonn3pcQp2TzNYnIKq1jPoLM8>

Additional Resources

- Top OOPs interview questions (for revision):
<https://www.interviewbit.com/oops-interview-questions/>
- Top OS interview questions (for revision):
<https://www.interviewbit.com/operating-system-interview-questions/>

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/commonly-asked-operating-systems-interview-questions/>

- Top DBMS and SQL interview questions (for revision):
<https://www.interviewbit.com/dbms-interview-questions/>
<https://www.interviewbit.com/sql-interview-questions/>

Additional Resources

- Top Computer Networks interview questions (for revision):
<https://www.interviewbit.com/networking-interview-questions/>
 - <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/top-50-computer-networking-interview-questions-and-answers/>
- Space and time complexity of C++ STL containers along with their implementation, candidates often ignore that and that causes issues during interviews:
https://www.geeksforgeeks-org.cdn.ampproject.org/v/s/www.geeksforgeeks.org/analysis-of-time-and-space-complexity-of-stl-containers/amp/?usqp=mq331AQKKAFQArABIIACAw%3D%3D&js_v=a6&gsa=1#referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&csi=0&share=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.geeksforgeeks.org%2Fanalysis-of-time-and-space-complexity-of-stl-containers%2F

Additional Resources

- 1) Java collections framework in one video by Anuj Bhaiya (prerequisite: Java basics): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rzA7UJ-hQn4>
- 2) UNIX and Shell programming
<https://www.sanfoundry.com/1000-unix-questions-answers/>

System Design (Extra)

- Gaurav Sen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xpDnVSmNFX0&list=PLMCXHnjXnTnvo6aISjVkgxV-VH6EPyvoX>

- Keerti Purswani:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T6n5PCYLSr0&list=PLliXPok7ZonnZd99TE0Zzn1MZIE4u08GW>

Thank You!!

Codess
•Cafe

Rock the placement season ahead girl ;)