

JoulesLabs Assessment Test

Title: E-Commerce Cart & Coupon Service

Overview

We want you to design and implement a simple **Cart and Coupon Service**.

The service should allow customers to manage their cart, apply coupons, and calculate the total amount after discounts.

Your solution should cover the following requirements.

Requirements

Cart

- A customer can add items to the cart.
- A customer can update or remove items from the cart.
- The cart should display:
 - Total price before discount
 - Applied discount amount
 - Final payable amount

Coupons

There will be **two types of coupons**:

1. General Coupon

- The customer manually enters the coupon code.
- If valid, the discount is applied to the cart.

2. Auto-Applied Coupon

- This coupon should be applied automatically.

- The rules depend on conditions like the total cart price or the products in the cart.
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Discount Types

Coupons can have two discount types:

1. **Fixed amount** (e.g., \$100 off)
 2. **Percentage** (e.g., 10% off)
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Coupon Rules

Each coupon can have the following rules/attributes:

- Start time and expiry time.
 - Maximum discount amount.
 - Discount type (fixed or percentage).
 - Minimum cart size (number of items).
 - Minimum total price required.
 - Product-specific restrictions (coupon applies only to certain products).
 - Whether the coupon is auto-applied or not.
 - Maximum number of total uses (system-wide).
 - Maximum number of uses per user.
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Task

- Design the data structures/models needed to support the cart and coupon functionality.
- Implement the logic to:
 - Add/update/remove items in the cart.
 - Apply coupons (both manual and auto-applied).

- Calculate total price, discount, and final payable amount.
 - Show how coupon validation works based on the rules above.
 - Write unit tests to demonstrate your implementation.
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Bonus (Optional)

- Show how you would design this as a microservice with clear APIs (e.g., REST or GraphQL).
 - Explain how you would handle concurrency if multiple users are applying the same coupon at the same time.
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Note

You can implement or add any additional features if you think they would be useful. We'll appreciate it.

Acceptance Criteria

Your solution will be considered correct if it meets the following criteria:

- Cart supports add, update, and remove operations.
 - Cart shows total price, discount, and final payable amount correctly.
 - General coupons can be applied manually and validated properly.
 - Auto-applied coupons trigger automatically when their rules are met.
 - Coupon rules (expiry date, max uses, min cart size/price, etc.) are enforced.
 - Both discount types (fixed and percentage) are supported.
 - Code is clean, structured, and readable.
 - Unit tests cover the main functionality.
 - Bonus points: API design, scalability considerations, concurrency handling.
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What We Measure and Consider (Updated)

- **Correctness** – Meets requirements and acceptance criteria.
- **Code Quality** – Readable, maintainable, idiomatic.
- **Design Decisions** – Sound data models, clear boundaries, sensible APIs.
- **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving** –
 - How you decompose the problem and prioritize.
 - Assumptions stated and justified (no guesswork hidden).
 - Options evaluated with trade-offs (complexity, performance, DX).
 - Clear reasoning for chosen approach vs. alternatives.
 - Handling ambiguity and edge cases proactively.
 - Debugging strategy and how you verify correctness (logs, tests, assertions).
- **Testing** – Meaningful unit tests with good coverage of rules/edge cases.
- **Error Handling** – Robust validation, graceful failures, clear messages.
- **Scalability & Extensibility** – Easy to add new rules/types; performance-aware.
- **Documentation** – Setup/run steps, design rationale, examples.
- **Developer Experience** – Clean repo, helpful scripts, sensible project structure.
- **Creativity/Extra Features** – Thoughtful extras beyond the brief.

Want me to drop this into the full brief and send the finalized one-pager version too?

→ Deliver your solution in a GitHub repository or as a zip file containing code and instructions to run it.

→ You can use any language or framework you're comfortable with.