

In general, my experience with the performance task was positive. I would describe myself as an intermediate Excel user, proficient in basic functions. Approaching Excel with a computational mindset allowed me to find innovative solutions to the problems I encountered, enabling me to make significant progress without major hurdles.

As I delved into creating visualizations for my analysis, I encountered some intriguing quirks. I was using school codes as identifiers, and in some cases, there were multiple schools associated with a single code. This led to inflated numbers which threw off calculations. Fortunately, my visualizations brought these discrepancies to light, preventing potentially unnoticed errors.

My most significant challenge revolved around creating formulas that accurately counted applicants applying exclusively to one of the ten priority schools. This task pushed me to the limit, with Excel crashing, countless Google searches for functions, and even seeking assistance from Chat GPT to fine-tune my formulas. After considerable effort, I managed to develop a working solution, though I remain vigilant about the accuracy of my calculations.

In terms of feedback, I think it would be valuable to remind applicants that they have the option to utilize Office 365 through the cloud (browser version), which offers nearly all of Excel's capabilities. Completing the entire project with a watered-down Excel version resulted in significant time lost, waiting for formulas to process and data to load, and severely hindered my capacity to create pivot tables and visualizations effectively using Excel.

I hope that these insights can contribute to enhancing the performance task experience for future applicants. Thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to the next steps in the process.