

# **BLACKROCK Interview Experience**

The placement process had two technical interview rounds and an HR round. Each of them was an elimination round.

## **First technical**

The interviewer started off with the usual question, tell me about yourself. (Just a suggestion, do not repeat what is already written on your resume.)

After that he started looking at the projects that I had done and started asking questions about each of them, for example, how I implemented it, the languages and technologies I had used, whether they were assigned to me or did I do them on my own, whether they were team projects or individual etc.

One of my projects was GUI simulation of Stop and Wait protocol, so he asked me some network questions. Working of Stop and Wait, difference between OSI and TCP/IP, between TCP and UDP, which is faster and why etc.

After that I explained one of the projects which was a multi-client request-response server, he asked me if it would work for a large number of clients. I answered no because I had used fork command and it creates new processes each time and it will ultimately slow down the system. So he asked me some ways through which the project could be made better. A clear understanding of the project is needed to answer such kind of questions. I mentioned few steps and he said they were correct and even suggested some more.

Then he asked my favourite coding language. I told him it was Java and he started asking questions about it. Some of them were - write the syntax for main function, can we overload main function? Why do we use static in the declaration of main?

Then he asked if a class can be made immutable? (If you know Java, you should know that String is an immutable class). I said yes, then he asked me to create an immutable class. Can we change the value of a final variable using a Java technique? (He repeated Java technique many times and that was a hint.) I answered that it can be done using Java Reflection but I don't know its syntax. He was happy that I knew about reflection and said that it was correct.

There were few more java questions but I don't remember them. He also asked some SQL queries. They were easy.

He also asked me what was the subject that I didn't like at all.

After that he asked me two puzzles and my strengths and weakness.

## **Second technical**

In this round, again the interviewer started by asking about my projects. You should be absolutely clear about each and every aspect of your project including the libraries (if any) you have used. I had done a Java project and had used GUI and he started asking about how I implemented GUI (I used AWT), and what all components of AWT I used.

Then he asked few DBMS questions and SQL queries. They were not tough. The basics should be clear. Main topics were keys, references (foreign keys), joins. He also asked some queries, they were not hard. Some other questions of DBMS included - difference between having and where. Difference between primary key, candidate key and unique constraint. What is an index? Difference between MYSQL and PostgreSQL. (I had mentioned in my resume that I had worked on both of them.) What are transactions? ACID properties etc.

I had used Prepared Statements in a website that I created using JSP and Servlets, so he asked why are they faster than the normal statements. I said I do not know anything about how fast or slow they are. I used them to prevent SQL Injections. He asked me about it and I explained. He said that he didn't know about their role in prevention of SQL Injection and seemed happy with my answer.

I mentioned that I used Servlets as controller, so he asked me about the MVC framework. Again there were few Java questions on collections like difference between HashMap and HashSet and few others. What is synchronized? He was giving me hints if I got stuck somewhere. He also asked if I was familiar with Hibernate and Scala. I said no.

He asked about my favourite subjects. I said DS and algorithm. Then he asked which data structure do I like and why? I said graphs because we use their practical implementations almost every day (routing, online maps etc).

Then he asked me where I see myself in five years? Why do you want to get selected in Blackrock? After that he asked if I had any questions.

Their main product is Aladdin which is developed in many countries, so I asked what is the role of Indian developers in this process. He said it was a good question and explained in a nutshell about their role.

## **HR interview**

They asked questions about family, strength, weaknesses, your goals and few other basic HR questions. Do not get nervous in this round., they can easily notice that.

Also at the end of interviews they usually ask if you have any questions. You **should** ask questions. It shows them that you are interested in working with them. This is true for all companies.