

Ciena Interview Experience

(Java/Python Profile)

Rishabh Poria, MCA

It was a three-round process with one online assessment and two technical rounds. OA and the first technical round were conducted offline on the campus itself, while the second technical round was conducted online using Zoom.

Round 1 (Online Assessment) (60 minutes)

This round had 2 programming questions to be done in 60mins

1. Given a string containing only uppercase characters, return how many times you can remove letters (in any order) from the string and make the string "BANANA" from it.

Example:

Input: NAABXXAN **Output:** 1

Input: NAANAAXNABABXNNBZ **Output:** 2

Input: AAXAYZB **Output:** 0

2. Given an integer N, return a string of length N containing characters from [a..z] such that every character occurs an equal number of times. If there is more than one answer, return the one that contains more unique characters.

Example:

Input: 26

Output : abcde.....z

Input: 30

Output: aabb.....oo

Round 2 (Technical Interview – I) (40-50 minutes)

The interviewer started the interview by going through the resume and discussing about few of my projects like the motivation behind the projects and the tech stack used to build them.

He asked me how comfortable I am with Java and I told him that considering I prepared whatever I could in a week, I am pretty comfortable but Python is my primary language.

He went on to ask some easy questions related to DSA and Java:

- Implementing a queue using 2 stacks (in 2 ways- $O(1)$ insertion and $O(1)$ deletion)
- Differences between ArrayList and Array, String and StringBuilder, process and thread.
- Do threads have same data or not?
- How do threads communicate with each other?
- Design a middleware between an application and a server that limits the number of requests sent to the server and stores the requests that have been rate limited.
- What is deadlock and the conditions required for deadlock?
- A simple question related to critical section.

At the end, the interviewer asked if I had any questions for him. I asked why did they not keep Python for the interview and he said that it's just because it is easy for them to conduct interviews when there are a few languages but they have no problems with Python developers. In fact, most of the work they do, requires Python knowledge.

Round 3(Technical Interview – 2)(30 – 40 minutes)

It was taken by 2 interviewers. They both started by introducing themselves and then asked how my experience was in previous rounds and asked me for a brief introduction.

Again in this round, I went on to tell them that my primary language is Python but I am comfortable with both Java and Python. They said it should not be an issue and proceeded to take the interview in Python only.

- They gave me a design problem in which I have to design a Railway Query Portal like IRCTC where the customers will fill details like from and to stations, date, seat type etc. and the portal will show all the related trains.
Since there is no clear answer, we discussed different ways in which we can implement the system ranging from classes and objects to hashing to graphs etc. The interviewers were very friendly and helped me whenever they felt like I am having some issue.
- Why did you choose Python and if I will have any problem if I have to work on some other language.
- Why Ciena and why not some start-up since the growth is better there?
- Give one life situation where you overcame a difficult time.

Then they asked me if you have any questions and I asked them about the expectations from an intern and how was their experience when they first joined Ciena.

Note:

- Don't hesitate and be positive with your answer and try giving example
- If don't know the answer, say directly don't waste time.
- Revise the concept of your preferred language and what you have done in your project thoroughly.

All the best!