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Ciena Interview Experience

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OVERVIEW

Ciena didn't take Online assessment (OA) of any type. Instead they collected data through our CRs about the languages that we prefer amongst the languages that they work in (C, C++, Python). They were shortlisting students based on the resumes, marks and maybe this data, and giving them a call to schedule the interviews. I got my call on Oct 18th and the first interview was scheduled on the next day itself.

Interview Process

Technical Round (TR-1) - Zoom Call - 1hr

Firstly the interviewer introduced himself and asked me to introduce myself. We then discussed a little about my project.

He asked me my preferred language to which I replied C++. He then went on to ask a series of conceptual questions from C++. He then asked me about virtual functions. Then he asked me to list OOPS concepts. As I was explaining them he asked me to just list them. He then asked me questions on inheritance and polymorphism. He asked me to explain run-time polymorphism and compile-time polymorphism. He then asked me about friend classes and access modifiers.

He then asked me to use two stacks and implement a queue with it. He might have wanted to see my approach towards the problem. I asked the frequency of which operation will be more: queuing or de-queuing; he asked me to implement keeping in mind both. I gave three solutions to the problem. He gave me a hint to another solution that I was not aware of and I wrote another pseudo-code for that solution as well.

Towards the end of the interview he then asked me if I had any questions for him and I asked give me feedback on how I performed.

I got an email later for an interview the next day.

Managerial Round (MR-1) - Zoom Call - 1hr 15min

The managerial round was scheduled next. He first asked me to introduce myself. He asked me my favorite subject, to which I replied DSA. He then asked me about graphs, trees, and what's the difference between the two. He asked me about the searching algorithms on trees; mainly Djikstra.

He then asked me about any languages that I prefer, I said CPP. He asked me some questions on it and I was able to answer almost all of them except the last one which was to find the length of an unknown variable without using sizeof. I sort of blanked out there, but then he gave me a hint: pointers. Well, that's that.

Then he asked me which is my second favorite subject, to which I replied OS. He asked me about the operating system I use. He then asked me situational questions, like if I have 4 processes running in 4 different processors and if I have, in another system, 4 threads running in 4 different systems, which of them would be faster. There were many situational questions one after another, some of which I wasn't giving the right answers, but he was guiding me, giving me hints and I was able to give the right answer.

Towards the end of the interview I asked for feedback, to which he replied that he's surprised at the lack of basic concepts in students nowadays and their focus merely on learning a particular language only (which busted my bubble that I was doing great). I then asked about the life and opportunities that I will be getting if I join Ciena. He went on to explain about the company and the different aspects of the work in his managerial area.

LEARNING

Ask for feedback. Although not all interviewers give them, it really gives you an insight as to what to do and what not to. Revise the basics well. Try giving crisp definitions and some examples. Don't panic if an answer is wrong, ask for hints and keep telling them your approach.

Also please maintain your CGPA, your marks matter a lot. A lot of companies take marks into account and call students on the basis of marks only yr.