INTERN
INSIGHTS

DR. REDDY'S LABORATORY

INSIGHTS BY:

PRANJAL SINGH

PREPERATION TIPS

SPECIFIC TO DRL

- For technical tests, you need to prepare fluid mechanics and basic thermodynamics, mass, and energy balances. You can also brush up on your jee-level chemical kinetics concepts.

- DRL group discussions are very specific, unlike others. These are completely technical. So practice as many GDs as you can and gain confidence in that, once you are confident, try to initiate group discussion, and be active during discussion.

- You must have each and every point of your resume at your fingertips. Structure it in a storytelling way in your mind.

- Prepare the projects you did very well, and also think about further improvements, challenges faced during the project, etc.

- Fluid mechanics(ESO204/CHE211) and thermodynamics (ESO201 and CHE221) very well.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume shortlist:**
  - It was mainly CPI-based. Students above 6 were shortlisted.
  - There may be some exceptions who have really good POR or decent Internships.
  - Around 160 candidates were shortlisted for this round.

- **Technical test:**
  - After the resume shortlisting, there was a technical test that contained 30 technical questions. The time for these questions was 30 minutes, followed by 20 aptitude questions in 20 minutes.
  - Technical questions were from basic chemical kinetics, Polymers, thermodynamics, Mass balance, and fluid mechanics. Aptitude questions were not that straightforward, questions were easy but a bit time taking so time was an issue in this section.
  - Very importantly, at the end of the test, there were 100 behavioural questions. Answers those questions very seriously. That could be the key point in shortlisting for the next round. .

- **Group discussion:**
  - After the technical test around 80 candidates were shortlisted for the GD.
  - The topic of the GD was technical like any reactor or any process from industry and we had to discuss some questions like fundamental laws that govern the phenomena and properties that affect that system, etc.

- You don't need to prepare as such for the HR round, just think about a place where you can show them your teamwork and collaboration skills, and just be honest and very clear with your thought process.

GENERAL TIPS FOR CORE PREPARATION

- If you have a core research project under professor, definitely it is a plus point. So you can do it in summer, maybe a surge project or a normal project, both are equally valued.

- Revise your core subjects at the end of summer.

- Make a group of around 10 friends and sit with a senior to practice as many GDs as you can, almost all the core companies take GDs, so it is very important.

- Prepare your resume very well.

Technical Interview:

- After GD around 21 candidates were shortlisted for technical interview. It was a short interview around 20 to 30 minutes.
- The interview was mostly based on my resume as my resume contained some core projects. So, they asked to explain those projects. They asked me about laminar and turbulent flow, viscosity measurement, and uses in the Pharmaceutical industry.

HR round:

- 15 candidates were shortlisted for this round. This was a behavior discussion-type interview.
- The interviewer asked me about my family background, and what are your involvement on campus. They asked about any place or project where you worked as a team of 30-40 people and what the problem you faced working with such a large number.
- They asked about routine, what you do in your free time, relocation problems, etc. You don't need to prepare anything, just be natural and react to whatever they ask you.

ITC LIMITED

ITC Limited

INSIGHTS BY:

ROHAN VIRMANI

PREPERATION TIPS

- Don't take the one page resume lightly. A lot depends on its structure and content.

- Brush up your speaking skills. Take part in a lot of mock interviews and Group discussions.

- Revise the important core topics of thermodynamics and fluids.

- Study your own resume very thoroughly.

- Talk to the seniors who have gone through the process.**

- These positions don't call for the same level of coding experience as SDE roles, but personality and general involvement —including projects—are quite important.(Along with a decent understanding of core concepts)

- Therefore, I advise getting started early and developing your CV skillfully with the help of seniors.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Application:**
  - Requirement of submit a one-page resume under the techno-managerial profile. In it list the positions of responsibility, relevant projects, technical skills, research intern, and extracurricular activities in detail.

- **ITC form:**
  - With a few exceptions, all of the students were required to complete a lengthy application that included questions about the goal to join the organization as well as ethical and personality-based responses.

- **Aptitude Assesment:**
  - It was a four-section, timed test .There were also a few quick IQ games in the parts.

- **Group discussion:**
  - A total of about 65 students were selected for this round after all three submissions were reviewed.
  - In order to assess our ability to make decisions, think quickly, and observe, we were required to participate in a discussion in groups of eight about a randomly selected situation.(10 to 15 minutes)

- **Technical Interview 1:**
  - About twenty-four students received the call for this round following the GD round .
  - Questioning extensively about research topic and several of main courses during the 40-minute, one-on-one session.

- **HR round:**

  - 11 students were shortlisted for this round. I was asked about the nonacademic aspect of my resume, the sports and music involvements, and social work. I was asked about my schooling locations and I felt my speaking skills were being tested.

- **Technical Interview 2:**

  - I was interviewed by 2 of the employers.
  - I was questioned again about the core courses, mainly thermodynamics and fluids, along with some topics about data science and machine learning as I had mentioned in my resume as a non-core interest.

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED

INSIGHTS BY:

SHREYA S NAIR

PREPERATION TIPS

- Be thorough with each and every point of your resume. You should be able to defend every point and know the concept and meaning of each technical term you've used.

- Also refresh basic concepts from Fluid Mechanics and ESO 201, mainly those concepts which have direct application in the industry.

- For the video interview round, there isnt much that we can prepare because the questions asked are very common sense based. But practicing to speak and articulate our thoughts concisely and in a structured manner in 3 minutes could be a good preparation strategy.

- Do go through HUL's website very well and be well-versed with the company's core values, upcoming plans etc. Including these in your answers in both the form and in interview round, shows that you're serious about this company and creates a good impression.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Application:**
  - We were required to submit a one-page resume under one of the following 3 profiles - RnD, Supply chain or tech.
  - Tech profile meant you're interested in both RnD and supply chain and HUL would decide based on your profile, where you'd be better suited. So I had opted for the Tech profile.
  - In my resume, I listed my positions of responsibility, relevant projects, technical skills, industrial internship, and extracurricular activities in detail. I had emphasized on my industrial internship and projects more on my resume and had spent relatively less space on PORs and extra-curriculars.

- **HUL Form:**
  - The form was very comprehensive and elaborate. The form was meant to get to know us better, both personality-wise and skillwise. It had questions that asked us to elaborate about the projects or internships we've worked on, our contribution to it and things we learned from it.
  - We were also asked to tell about any niche skill or expertise we might have. Personality based questions included questions where we were asked tell about our strengths, any constructive feedback we've received and things we're passionate about.
  - There was also a question which asked us to tell one value which trumps over honesty for us, and explain the reason for it. My personal approach to filling the personality based questions in the form was to be completely honest about my answers, this helped to ensure that my answers aligned with each other.
  - Also trying to link them to HUL's core values wherever possible also helped.

Video Interview:

- This round comprised of 5 questions that popped up on the screen, one question at a time. Each question appeared on screen for 90 seconds, in which duration we had to both read the question and formulate an answer, then the video starts recording and we get 3 minutes to answer the question.
- The video is then evaluated and on the basis of the answers the shortlist for technical interview comes out.

Technical + HR Interview:

- The technical interview was conducted online over MS teams. In this round they asked me to briefly tell about myself, my interests etc. Each point of my resume, especially those about my industrial internship and projects was questioned.
- They then linked those points to basic chemical engineering concepts and asked questions about it. I was also asked few generic questions from Fluid Mechanics, like concept behind Reynold's number, flow applications etc.
- HR interview was also conducted together with the technical interview without much demarcation. After questioning me about my concepts they asked me about my motivation for joining HUL. I answered this by including HUL's core values and main goals in my answer.
- They then asked me my opinion about the Manipur incident, which was the latest news then.
- In the end they asked if I had any questions for them at which I asked a question that included upcoming plans at HUL and their short term and long term goals that I had read on their website, and how much I could contribute to that in the brief period of my internship.

BNY MELLON

INSIGHTS BY:

ASJAD RAZA

PREPERATION TIPS

- I would like to emphasize the importance of learning DSA as a preparation tip. Learning DSA is vital to prepare for the interviews.

- One could solve problems from InterviewBit and give contests on codeforces regularly to get a grasp on the topics.

- Later for learning OOPS and DBMS one can watch some of the videos from youtube to get a grasp of theory. Later for DBMS one can solve the problems from InterviewBit in the DBMS section to develop problem solving skills.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Application:**
  - We were required to submit a one-page resume under the SDE profile. In it, I listed my positions of responsibility, relevant projects, technical skills, research intern, and extracurricular activities in detail.
  - The main focus was on the projects that I had done in the past two years with a little focus on my extracurricular activities too.

- **Technical Test:**
  - The technical test consisted of 1 round that consisted of 4 questions. They were of easy, medium, medium and hard difficulty respectively. The questions required some real thinking, especially the hard one. I was able to solve all the 4 questions in the limited time of about 2 hours.

- **Technical Interview:**
  - The technical interview consisted of 2 rounds.
  - The first round was a technical round. I was asked a simple problem on strings using the hackerrank interview environment.
  - Later she asked me some questions about stacks and queues.
  - After that she asked me to write the pseudo code for quick sort on paper and later I was asked a probability puzzle.
  - Afterwards she asked me some theory related questions related to DBMS. She also asked if I knew operating system concepts to which I said I did not know about operating systems. She was fine with it and then asked me again a question related to arrays and asked me to write a pseudo code for it.

- Later I was called for my second round. The interview was focused on object oriented programming and DBMS more this time.
- He asked me several questions related to OOPS and DBMS.
- Later he gave me a problem to write the code for a SQL query. Afterwards he asked me to explain the types of inheritances in OOPS and explain it to him using by writing code on paper.
- Afterwards he gave me a problem to guess the output of a code that required object oriented programming.
- Overall this was not a very long round. It took about 30-40 minutes to complete. The interviewer was very friendly.

HR Interview:

- The HR round was the final round of the selection phase.
- He asked simple personality questions and later went on to talking about my projects and what I learn from them and how they could be applied in real life.
- He later gave me several valuable tips. We then talked for a while about how life would be at my internship at BNY Mellon. He seemed happy with me at the end and the interview ended on a good note.

AMAZON

INSIGHTS BY:

RUCHIT RUNGTA

PREPERATION TIPS

- Don't Practice on websites like InterviewBit or Leetcode for technical interview preparation. Striver's channel on YouTube and his SDE Sheet are helpful.
- Good problem-solving skills are necessary for technical tests. Practicing and giving contests on websites like Codeforces, Codechef, Atcoder will be useful for that.
- Many software profiles ask for OOPs Concepts. Learn about Object Oriented Programming and prepare interview questions based on it.
- Feel free to contact your seniors for advice on your interested roles.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE

- Interviewers do not expect the most optimal solution from the very start. Ask clarifying questions wherever appropriate before/ while working on the problem.
- Keep communicating what you're thinking with the interviewer. Also, the interviewer helps you with hints when you get stuck.
- One other thing you can work on for the interviews is the code quality. Make separate functions wherever applicable. Name the variables and functions appropriately (node, childNode in trees/graphs, row, col instead of i, j when traversing 2D matrix etc.).

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Application:**
  - We were required to submit a one-page resume under the SDE Intern profile.
  - In it, I listed some relevant projects, technical skills, some competitive programming ranks/ ratings and position of responsibility.

- **Technical Test:**
  - The technical test consisted of 2 sections - "Coding Assessment" and "Workstyle Assessment".
  - Coding Assessment: 2 coding problems were asked. They required decent problem-solving skills and no particular algorithms or data structures (Similar to Codeforces Div.2 A, B, C).
  - Workstyle Assessment: Also an important part of the test, based on the Amazon Leadership Principles. Make sure to read and understand these principles.

- **Technical Interview:**
  - There was only 1 interview round.
  - I was asked for my introduction and then 2 coding problems were given. They were standard problems you would encounter when practicing InterviewBit, Leetcode etc.
  - First was a problem based on 2D Matrix and Binary Search. Given a matrix with its rows and columns sorted, find the target element.
  - Second was based on Binary Trees, a standard problem of finding the "Boundary Sum".
  - For Amazon, binary tree is one of the most frequently asked topics. Make sure to prepare it well.

- **HR Round:**
  - We didn't have an HR Round for Amazon.

BARCLAYS

INSIGHTS BY:

ANUBHAV

PREPERATION TIPS

- Get good projects on your resume.

- Be well aware of the projects that you have written in your resume.

- Be well versed with basic probability and puzzles from Braainstellar.

- Prepare interview questions related to softwares like SQL.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Application:**
  - We were required to submit a one-page resume for the following 2 profiles -Data Scientist and Data Analyst.
  - I submitted the same resume for both the profiles, it is very important to have relevant projects in your resume related to data science and machine learning.
  - (*change accordingly; emphasize things, you personally think have helped you)

- **Screening Test:**
  - Only the people with CPI over 8.5 were shortlisted for the screening test and the test was a mixture of aptitude test and behavioral test.
  - In the behavioral test my advice will be to stick with one personality (preferably your true personality) because questions are framed in such a way that, if you do not follow one single personality you will be rejected right away. So it's very tiring to maintain your focus during the behavioral test, but try to stick to one personality at all costs.
  - The people who were rejected after this test were informed right away and the person who were promoted got the mail that your application is still under consideration.
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- **PPT for Shortlisted Canditates:**
  - An exclusive ppt was conducted for shortlisted candidates where they told about what Barclays really is and what are its principles and briefed about their core values. This ppt was followed by a resume shortlisting round.

Technical Round 1:

- I was informed that I qualified for the technical interviews a night before the process. In my first round they basically tested my approach towards problem solving. I was asked basic puzzle questions and basic probability questions and in this round itself they asked few HR questions also.

Technical Round 2:

- This round was completely based on my resume, They asked me conceptual questions regarding all the relevant things that I had in my resume, their major interest was basic knowledge of Machine Learning and SQL, they questioned me about these for approx 30 mins, then they asked me whether I know anything regarding Banking or not.
- I respectfully said that I don't know anything in that sector, then they concluded the interview with some HR questions.

HINDUSTAN UNILEVER LIMITED

INSIGHTS BY:

DIPTANSU

PREPERATION TIPS

- It is always a good idea to keep your preparation broad.

- Do not neglect what you've written in your resume, your core courses and any information about the company/role.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Shortlisting:**
  - The first step of the application was a simple resume shortlisting. We could apply for either an RnD position or "Tech." Tech would land you in either R&D or supply chain, but the outcome would be determined by the final interview if chosen.
  - You will also fill out an application form where they ask about your hobbies and passions.
  - HUL puts great emphasis on CPI while shortlisting resumes. Cutoffs vary across branches and roles. For Chemical Engineers, Tech's cutoff was more than RnD's.
  - I had applied for the RnD role.

- **HireVue Interview:**
  - This is the second round. You must answer three questions and you get 2 minutes for each on the HireVue platform. The answers are automatically recorded and uploaded. The questions primarily involve strategy and supply chain problems; you cannot prepare much for them. You must use your intuition and presence of mind while justifying your answer.

- **Final Interview:**
  - Six candidates competed for the R&D position in the final round. He told me straight away that he would not review my resume or ask HR-related questions. After a brief introduction, we jumped straight to technical questions.
  - Questions were tricky and encompassed JEE physics, Fluid Mechanics, and Thermodynamics. Be thorough with fluids and thermodynamics, mostly ESO201 and a small amount of CHE221.

- Revise the basics such as continuity equation, thermodynamic enthalpies, their significance, etc.
- He asked me six questions. With a few exceptions that I could only partially explain, the interview proceeded smoothly. The interviewer was kind and would offer me pointers to help me along.
- When faced with a technical question, try to estimate the answer; if you are at a loss for ideas, just say so and move on to the next one.

AXXELA

BUILDING FUTURES | CREATING OPTIONS

INSIGHTS BY:

ATHARVA DESHMUKH

PREPERATION TIPS

- Strong mathematical skills and a good grasp of numbers are essential.

- Having a finance-related project (Finlatics/FAC Summer Project) on your resume or prior experience in trading is a significant advantage.

- Practicing basic probability and aptitude questions can help you prepare effectively for the interview.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Shortlisting:**
  - The company initially set a CPI cutoff of 7, but they have opted to shortlist candidates with a CPI below 7 if they had a finance-related project on their resumes.

- **Technical Test:**
  - The online test consisted of two sections. The first section evaluated rapid mathematical skills, with 36 standard math questions to be solved within 6 minutes. This segment aimed to identify candidates who excelled in numerical proficiency.
  - The second section comprised of 25 questions to be answered in 30-minute window. These questions primarily revolved around topics related to probability and aptitude.

- **Group Activity:**
  - Approximately 1.5 hours after the technical test, around 160 students were selected and grouped into sets of 10. All the members in each group were instructed to join a Zoom meeting.
  - The group activity centered around a "Buying and Selling" game featuring six vacant slots representing a 6-digit number, resembling our currency notes. The HR released one digit every two minutes. After each digit's release, participants had to predict the sum of the digits in the 6-digit number and decide whether to buy or sell based on this prediction.
  - Rankings were determined based on the profit earned.

- **Technical / HR Interview:**
  - Approximately 50 students were selected for interviews. The Technical and HR interviews were combined and lasted around 35 minutes. He asked standard puzzles and speed math questions, such as finding the sum of the first 100 even numbers and calculating the square of 81. He also asked about my strategy in the group activity to make a profit and if I had any prior trading experience. Additionally, He wanted to know why I hadn't applied to chemical core companies. There were no questions about my resume or projects.
  - They released the results about 2-3 hours after the interviews, and 14 students were chosen.

JAGUAR LAND ROVER

INSIGHTS BY:

SHORYA

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Resume Shortlist:**
  - Everyone who applied was shortlisted for the technical test.

- **Technical Test:**
  - There were 2 sections in this test.
  - The 1st section has basic aptitude and math questions(no need to prepare individually, it has questions like worker problem, AGP etc.).
  - The 2nd part has 2 coding questions, both were math questions including exponentials.

- **Techinal and HR interview:**
  - After the test 20 people were shortlisted for a technical interview(don't know the criteria for selection, I did both the coding questions).
  - There was only 1 online round in JLR which was of about 45-50 mins in general (mine was 1hr).
  - 2 interviewers, one with 15 years experience and another with 4 years, took my interview.
  - They introduced themself and asked me to do the same. They quickly asked me to explain my project.
  - Coding questions:
  - 1. Link list==To find if 2 link lists are intersecting or not,
  - 2.Binary search==They asked me to write a code and then dry run it on the test case they gave,
  - 3. Ternary search==they asked me what it should be and told me to write a code after this they asked me the T.C and why we don't use ternary search in place of binary,
  - 4. Graph==I don't remember the exact question but it was an easy one.) were to be solved on an online compiler.

- After this they wanted to know why I wanted to join JLR. What are the various fields in a car company for software.(HR questions)
- At last they asked if I had any questions for them(always ask questions, one option could be a thing which you were not able to answer in the interview or more insights of the company).

- 7 people got the software internship.

AMERICAN EXPRESS

INSIGHTS BY:

SAUMYA GUPTA

PREPERATION TIPS

PREPARATION TIPS FOR SOFTWARE

- Start early.
- Don't jump directly to core DSA. First give some contests to get a feel of coding. My advice will be to regularly do CP. If you don't have much time for it, atleast give the Codeforces and Codechef contests with full dedication and upsolve Only this way, your skill can improve. Do topics like Binary Search, Two Pointers, Bit Manipulation, Greedy Techniques and C++ STL along with giving contests regularly.
- Try your best to cover at least all of the topics of DSA except DP, Graphs, Trees before summers. This is because DP and graphs are most important and require a lot of time. A large majority of students spend a lot of time on the rest of the topics, only to find almost all questions of graph and DP in the tests.
- For resources, I would recommend the Striver A2Z sheet as it is well-structured. You can also do Interviewbit. Follow any but follow one completely. Don't make the mistake of trying to cover both simultaneously and then doing only easy questions of both. For videos, you can follow any of Love Babbar or Striver.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **AmEx Interview:**
  - Application through SPO portal
  - A combined test for Analytics and Product role, which consists of three sections : 1. Aptitude, 2. ML, 3. Case Study.
  - 2 technical interview rounds, no HR round

- **Resume tips:**
  - (i) For software and analyst roles, work experience and projects are of main importance. Your 60-70% of your resume should be filled with these sections. In case you have any work experience, then 3-4, else 4-5 technical projects are recommended. You can do these projects through SnT, Stamatics, ACA, Chemineers or even self projects.
  - (ii) For analyst role, atleast one project related to ML is a must.
  - (iii) Although PORs and extracurriculars are not of much value in Software and Analytics profiles, still write one or two PORs and a variety of extra-curriculars. This is to show the interviewer that you are a person with multiple skills. Note that this section should be small and not cover much space of the resume.
  - (iv) Many people have a doubt whether they should write Codeforces rating or not. My advice will be to only write it in case it is above 1700. (Don't get anxious, even if your CF rating is around 1200, you are doing pretty good and could clear most interviews, it is just that when you are explicitly writing as an achievement, then it should be on the higher end.)
  - (v) If you have a high number of projects and not many relevant courses related to the Software and Analytics field, you can skip it.
  .

- Note: DP section of Interviewbit is very good and CSES problemset for graphs is a must-do. You can do these in the month of June/ early July during summers.
- (vi) Note2: Most asked questions in tests are of DP, Graph, Binary Search on Ans, ad-hoc type questions of arrays and strings.

PREPARATION TIPS FOR ANALYTICS
- (i) Don't prepare only for Analytics. It is a well-known fact that major companies offer coding roles and companies of analytics even ask coding questions so it is always better to do coding side by side, although you might skip very hard questions of very hard topics.
- (ii) Study probability and statistics, and linear algebra and make your foundations strong. You can follow HSO201 notes.
- (iii) Solve a lot of puzzles. Do Brainstellar and solve 50 Challenging problems of Probability. If you are finding this book very hard, don't look at the full solution at once. Read starting lines of the solution and when you get some hint, try again to do it. Also conversely, don't spend a lot of time on a question without taking any hints, that is just wasting time.
- (iv) Note that many companies of different profiles have aptitude tests and probability and puzzles will help you a lot in them.
- (v) Prepare for Guesstimates. Remember that your approach of solving a guesstimate matters the most and the interviewer cares the least if you are telling the right answer or not. Just focus on your approach.
- (vi) Your ML needs to be strong. Do the AndrewNg Coursera course of ML. The conceptual knowledge is of much more value than a certificate. If Analytics is your main target profile, do multiple projects on ML and its applications like NLP (Natural Language Processing) or Image Processing / Computer Vision.
- (vii) You can study SQL also. It is a small topic and is asked in some companies.

Interview Experience of AmEx and my advice for interviews-
- (i) In both the rounds of the interview, similar questions were asked. It was just that the panelist was different.
- (ii) First I was told to give a brief introduction of myself and my interests and hobbies. I want to give advice from a book "For a successful interview, you have to drive an interview rather than ride it." So, for doing the same, in my interests, I told my strengths, which were related to the profile, which in this case, was that I really like to solve a lot of puzzles and give coding contests regularly too. He became interested in it and the interview started going in my favour.
- (iii) He then looked at my resume and started asking questions from a ML project which I had written. A few pieces of advice here:
- First, if you have a ML project in your resume, you will be grilled for it. So, make sure to study everything even remotely related to that project very well.
- Second, for the analytics profile, the interviewer will be very much interested in your ML projects. I had 5 technical projects in my resume, but in both the rounds, questions related to only ML project was asked, although other projects made it seem to the interviewer that I had knowledge on a variety of technical fields and kind of made a good impression.
- Third, no-one knows what was actually done in a project and you have to tell your own story. That being said, I am not telling you to lie about a project. The key is to put much more emphasis on things which are more relevant and important to the interviewer although you had actually done that very less significantly in the project.
- In my case, my ML project was of Chemineers Society and had a lot of chemical engineering stuff too, but I didn't mention it on the resume. Also, very less emphasis was given to neural networks during the project but I made it sound like that, that was the most significant part of the project. That being said, I have studied neural networks in much detail so that I can answer the question he asks.
- In summary tell your story about project according to relevance but be prepared well for questions too.
- Then, the interviewer asked a lot of conceptual questions of ML. I was able to answer most of the questions. For the questions, which I was not sure about, I told my analysis and explained to the interviewer that I am not very sure but due to these reasons, I think this should be the answer.

GENERAL TIPS

- (i) For the interview, be calm, composed and energetic. Answer your questions with enthusiasm and don't be dull. That being said, don't speak too much and speak to the point. Use pen and paper as much as possible. Never try to outsmart the interviewer.
- (ii) Now let's come to the preparation. It's a big journey. Why spend it alone? Make some friends with whom you are tracking progress while doing coding or solving puzzles.
- (iii) There will be many times when you will feel that it's too hard or there is so much to cover or maybe, you are not as intelligent as the preparation requires. Remember that even a master was once a newbie. You just have to keep moving forward. Only with small progress daily, you will be able to cover the big milestones.
- (iv) Take help from seniors and talk to them. Get your resume verified with a lot of seniors and when you feel low due to preparation stress, talk to them, they have experienced all that which you are/will be going to experience.
- (v) When the internship season will start, you will see many people getting selected although their preparation level was much below yours, you will also see people getting selected due to certain biases, and let me tell you, this will hurt. But don't let it get into you. Be honest with your preparation and just keep trying to improve your preparation, surely a lucky day will come when everything will go right and you will also be recruited.
- (vi) Enjoy the process. You have got a golden opportunity or let me call it a very interesting game. It has a mission, a variety of challenges and a time limit. Immerse yourself in this game and have a lot of fun.

- This created an impression that I know a lot of things and there are also many things which I do not know but I am capable of figuring out those things when provided a little help. This is most important for any interview and generally, companies are looking for such candidates.
- Next, I was asked a guesstimate question where my approach seems consistent.
- At last, there was a HR question about why I want to join AmEx. For these types of questions, it is always good to research the company and find some things which you genuinely like about the company and some things which your skillset and interests can relate to.
- My second round was similar and similar questions were asked in both the rounds.

ACCENTURE

INSIGHTS BY:

SIDDHARTH MAURYA

PREPERATION TIPS

BASIC PREPARATION OVERVIEW

- Consulting mainly requires you to practice a few Guesstimates and Case Studies.

- Resources that are relevant for these are Victor Cheng Playlist, Aditya Agarwal Playlist and IIML Case interviews playlist all available on youtube, which are excellent resources for the same.

- Additionally, one can go through IIT-B Casebook/ IIT-K Casebook to get a deeper understanding of the same.

- Always focus on the logical structuring of your answers to the cases and your way of delivering these.

SELECTION PROCESS

- **Aptitude Test:**
  - This is the first round which happens without a resume shortlist. That is anyone who has applied for the role is eligible for the test. It is preceded by a Mock Test to gain an experience of Accenture's very own testing platform. The test was 55 mins in total and consisted of 48 MCQ-type questions, divided into 6 sections. Each section was also timed on an individual basis. The sections were:-
  - 1.) Abstract Reasoning
  - 2.) Analytical Ability
  - 3.) Quantitative Aptitude
  - 4.) Critical Thinking
  - 5.) Data Interpretation
  - 6.) Verbal Ability
  - By this time, students have given a lot of tests of other companies, so no specific preparation is required for this, it is more about maintaining a high pace blended with immaculate accuracy. A useful practice can be the CAT PYQs, to just get into the groove of High-pace problem solving which worked in my case.

- **Resume Shortlist:**
  - Based on the Score of the Aptitude Test and the Relevant metrics over which the Resume stands out (typically the Peaks in the Resume).
  - So, following this around 15 students were shortlisted for the final interviews.

- **Technical Interview**
  - Checked primarily the genuineness of the candidate in terms of knowledge, work experience and projects. I was also asked a few HR questions like Why Consulting, Short-term and Long-Term Goals, Why not Masters? and also Why Chemical Engineering.

- All that matters in interviews is the clarity of thoughts, structured way of expression, communication and confidence.

- Consulting does not require very in-depth preparation of cases, just the basic case-prep and guesstimates (I wasn't asked this, but it is often asked) suffices.

- Have faith in God and believe in yourself, everything will eventually pave the way to your reward. Also have a side-on preparation for other profiles as well since things are unpredictable, its better to be equipped with skills that can get you through other domains as well.

- Later they asked me about my favourite subject, I stated physics, and this provoked grilling part of the interview. They started off with some basic questions, eventually proceeded to the case of Chandrayaan-3 and asked me to analyze all the concepts of Physics applied over there, later they asked me about Heavy water and its usage.
- They were just checking my grasp of my concepts and more importantly gauged my communication and confidence. They also asked me to explain one of the projects that I had mentioned in my resume that was of industrial utility.

MD Round:

- This is the ultimate round, only 2-3 students could make it to this. The MD is typically a Senior Management consultant who interacts and questions you.
- The MD just jumped onto my resume and started off with a project that I had mentioned, where I was the incharge of operating a Chemical Industry. He questioned me on every word mentioned in the project detail section.
- This eventually progressed with a case study that was based on evaluation of the Sustainability Quotient of an Industrial Plant and devising strategies to improvise Sustainability. I did the case study to the best of my knowledge and the interviewer seemed to be contented with my answer.
- Following this, he asked me to describe a productive experience of mine during my 2-year stay at IIT-K, so I elaborated on my experience working as an Intern at a startup where I was working on Business Development strategies.
- All that the interviewer was observing was again the communication and confidence aspect plus the knowledge and experience of tackling real-life cases so that the candidate best fits into the role of a consultant.
- Later we discussed the work culture at Accenture and the interview concluded.

AXXELA

INSIGHTS BY:

ARYAN AGARWAL

PREPERATION TIPS

- Just make the company guys comfortable that you will continue in their company and tell the truth to the interviewer about your future plans and they will take care of the rest.

SELECTION PROCESS

Interview Process:

- There was a Direct Interview and then selected for the role.
- The Interview Process was quite good and easy. It was a 25–30 minute interview which included both general HR as well as finance/mathematics related questions.
- Questions included fast calculations and general stock market/finance awareness questions.

Interview Questions:

- What is 68*81?
- Basic probability questions
- What are the top 5 reforms according to you by this government in the finance sector which affects Axxela?
- What are your further study plans and why Axxela?
- (All the mathematics questions were asked to be solved without using pen and paper)