



CATKing IIM Lucknow

WAT PI Workbook

Congrats for Getting an IIM L Call!

How to use this workbook?

This is a consolidation of 21 IIM Lucknow, WAT PI Experiences. These are consolidated from various online sources.

IIM WAT and PI is conducted across India at Bangalore / Delhi / Kolkata / Hyderabad / Mumbai.

This Booklet gives you the Candidate Profile also in most cases, for you to understand the Personal Interview and relate to it better.

After reading the entire Document you are required to check on your CATKing IIMWATPI Super 30 Dashboard:

1. Build Your Interview Skills (Videos from IIM and SP Jain Alumni)
2. Functional Dossiers: If you want to pursue an MBA in Marketing, choose that dossier first.
3. SOP / Application Forms (Check out Jagesh Golwala (IIMA), Raj Doshi (IIMA), Jay Gosalia (IIM B))
4. Sample AWT from the dashboard to understand the Structured Approach. WAT / AWT / AWA – All of these are same terms of Writing test assignment conducted across various IIMs.

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Summary What IIM Lucknow looks for?

- Domain Knowledge and General Awareness
- Work Experience and a good academic record is an Asset
- Gender and academic Diversity gives an edge
- Personal Interview Evaluates Candidates on Qualities of – Focus, Clarity of Thought, Learnability, Decision making skills, Discipline, opinions

Prerequisite:

- Form to be Submitted (Interview)
- Resume (not mentioned, good to carry)
- Original Documents along with photocopies

Insights - Writing Ability Test:

- Time Allotted is 10-30 minutes
- When given an abstract topic time allotted is less
- When given a specific topic for in-depth analysis time is given separately for ideation and writing

Sample WAT Topics -

1. Higher pay is a solution to corruption?
2. Greed is good.

Insights – Interview:

Interview time - 20-30 Minutes. (Sometimes as low as 10 mints)

Interview Panel Details – 2 to 3 people (two Professors and One Alumni, earlier it used to be 3-4 Panelists)

Interview Type - NO Stress Interview (Unlike Bangalore / Calcutta) (Check your thorough knowledge of subjects (Companies) / high on Current Affairs (Online if you say)

Interview discussion Pointers – (as per IIML experiences of last five years)

- Be completely prepared with anything and everything on the form.
- They will go into details of everything you speak about in the interview. (level1- what do you know about Indian Economy level2- what do you think about GST, level3- how has GST affected the sector you work in).
- It is absolutely fine to ask for time before you answer (they often expect you to think about a solution when they ask you about a problem at hand).
- It is fine if you are anxious and you need not portray a brave face being real with your emotions is better.
- Be prepared to answer everything about you work experience or about your favourite subjects if you are a fresher.

Contents

1) Interview and WAT Experience–1	5
2) Interview and WAT Experience–2	6
3) Interview and WAT Experience–3	7
4) Interview and WAT Experience–4	9
5) Interview and WAT Experience–5	10
6) Interview and WAT Experience–6	11
7) Interview and WAT Experience–7	12
8) Interview and WAT Experience–8	15
9) Interview and WAT Experience–9	18
10) Interview and WAT Experience–10	19
11) Interview and WAT Experience–11	21
12) Interview and WAT Experience–12	22
13) Interview and WAT Experience–13	24
14) Interview and WAT Experience–14	26
15) Interview and WAT Experience–15	29
16) Interview and WAT Experience–16	33
17) Interview and WAT Experience–17	34
18) Interview and WAT Experience–18	37
19) Interview and WAT Experience–19	38
20) Interview and WAT Experience–20	39
21) Interview and WAT Experience–21	40

1) Interview and WAT Experience–1

Profile: X 92.3%

XII 90.3%

CAT: 99.43

CGPA 7.68

Electronics and Communication Engineer

Work experience: 29 months in Research and Development of TCS

Panelists:

A – Interviewer 1

B - Interviewer 2

C- Candidate

After greeting each other

A: Good morning, C, how are you?

C: I am doing great Sir.

A: How is everyone in your house? (because of Covid 19 pandemic)?

C: Everyone is following the Covid protocols rigorously and by God's grace everyone is healthy as of now.

A: Okay so C, tell me something about yourself?

C: Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

From a phase where I struggled to continue with my education to a journey of sitting in an IIM Lucknow campus with its red building around this is a moment of happiness for me.

I am from Kolkata. Currently I am working in TCS for last 29 months in Utility and Energy sector. Since the very beginning of my corporate journey when I had my Initial learning program in Trivandrum, I got an opportunity to be the class representative of a batch of 120 trainee associates. In the last two years, I stepped up to lead my project team in unusual times during which I got exposure to the business side of the project by working closely with the customer requirements and time mitigating strategies. I have worked in the Utility domain of Tata Consultancy Services. I work closely with the Smart Meter Operation team of one of the UK's largest gas and electricity suppliers to manage the smart meter alerts. I have led a support team of three associates. In the last quarter of 2020, I have increased the account revenue by 15 percentage by ingesting alert from E and A smart meters. I was also the Star Performer of the month in July for the successful delivery with zero incident log.

I love playing cricket. I started playing cricket at the age of eight. I was the captain of my school team that won the state school championship. I was introduced to cricket by my father at the age of eight. I was part of the thirty-two-member squad of the U-16 West Bengal team(state). Cricket gave me the confidence to express myself in front of others. It taught me to take responsibility and to fight against every situation till the end. I have learnt to deal with both success and failure from the cricket ground itself. The twenty-two yards has always been my companion as I continued to lead various teams during my sports career

My journey can be summarised in two words- determination and hard work.

A: Can you briefly discuss the business impact you had in your project as a team?

- Developed AWS subscribed automated platform; generated £ 1 million revenue as a DevOps Engineer
- Managed backlogs & prioritized processing of 0.6+ million daily alerts; augmented project revenue by 20%
- Revamped workable alert frequency from 1 million to 2K alerts/day; improved resource utilization by 60%
- Generated actionable insights to identify 1000+ cases of electricity theft & 0.3% static meters/2 million

A: What are the disadvantages of smart meters?

A: What do you think regarding smart meters in India?

A: Can you tell the top three energy companies in the world?

A: Okay that will be all from my side. Mr. B will take it from here

B: So, C, what are the three skills you have learnt during lockdown?

B: I am not looking for technical skills something which you have learnt apart from your CAT syllabus and TCS

B: Tell 3 genuine weakness of yours and don't tell your strength in the name of weakness

B: Okay! So, you are from Kolkata? What is the current political scenario over there? (Voting was going on)

B: What do you think, which party will win the election?

B: Nice talking to you. Take care and have nice day

P.S: He was also from Kolkata

2) Interview and WAT Experience-2

Profile: Class 10 – 93

Class 12 – 95

CGPA – 6.9

Interview:

1 Interviewer: -

Int: A very good morning. How are you?

Me: Sir, a very good morning to you too. I am great and excited to participate in the interview.

Int: Well great. May you introduce yourself?

Me: I am ABC XYZ. I have completed my 10th standard in the year 2014 and my 12th standard in the year 2016 from PQR. In the year 2019, I have completed my graduation from STP. I have worked as an SME at EHT for a period of N months. During the year 2020-2021, I have been involved with QWE club, being a core member and engaging in multiple activities of the club.

Int: You come from a good college. So, I hope you are through with all the Physics concepts. Can you tell me about the third law of thermodynamics?

Me: Sir. The thermodynamics talks about the entropy. It states that the change in entropy is equal to the amount of heat transferred divided by the temperature of the system. Moreover, the entropy of the universe is increasing.

Int: So, do you really think that entropy of the universe changes?

Me: Yes sir. The entropy of the universe increases indeed, and nothing has been found out which can disprove this theory.

Int: What do you mean by change of entropy in layman's terms.

Me: To some extent, increase in entropy can be correlated with increase in disorder of the system. The more the entropy, the more the system is less orderly, or more chaotic.

Int: Well, tell me something. You know that we humans originate from monkeys. You must have observed monkeys. They jump up and down all the time. It can be said that they are in a state of high disorder. Whereas we humans are much calmer and do are not as outrageous in our ways as the monkeys. But we developed from these monkeys. How does the second law of thermodynamics hold in this case?

Me: Sir, as I have said earlier, it the entropy of the entire universe that is on the increase as per the second law and not individual components of the universe. Moreover, the disorder of an entity cannot be revealed through its physical activities alone.

Int: Still can you give an explanation for this?

Me: Well, even if we consider this, I can give you an alternate explanation. Monkeys may seem to be in a state of disorder, they keep springing and leaping from here to there, but their explorations are mostly restricted to a specific area, a forest, or a park. On the other hand, humans travel more. A person, on a daily basis, travel to multiple places, which are often far away from home. A person may travel to a different continent altogether, to holiday or for business purposes. In this regard, a man might live in a more disorderly fashion than a monkey. This again is in tune with the second law.

Int: That seems fair. Well thought of. With this we come to the end of the interview. All the best for the coming days.

Me: Thank you very much sir for giving me this fantastic opportunity to sit for the interview. I hope I have given apt answers to your questions.

Int: you may leave...

3) Interview and WAT Experience-3

Profile: 95, 93.4, 9.16 (CAT: 99.95)

BITS PILANI Chemical Engineering

20 months workex in Logistics

Professors: P1, P2. Shivam: S

P1: What are you doing?

S: Started speaking about a video (he stopped me)

P1: No, no I mean are you working?

S: Yes Sir. At Delivery Private Limited.

P1: What is your job role?

S: (his video froze, I adjusted my screen) explained my role.

P1: What is your educational background?

S: Sir I have done my undergraduate in Chemical Engineering. I also went to NUS Singapore for my final year thesis.

P1: Explain your thesis project

S: Explained in great detail.

P1: So your project was related to Plastics. Which marine animal one should use to prepare plastics and why?

S: I said brine shrimp because my project at NUS was related to that. But I gave random reasons. (He didn't cross question)

P1: Which ministry will you approach if you want to amend a policy in plastics industry?

S: said don't know.

P1: Who is the Chemical and Fertilizers minister?

S: Sir, is it Devanand Gowda? (It is Sadanand Gowda)

P1: I am asking you this. (I smiled and said I am not sure)

P1: Who is the petroleum minister?

S: Couldn't recall. Said sorry.

Over to P2

P2: Tell me three application of math's which is used in Chemical Engineering.

S: Sir Newton Raphson, Simplex for LPP, differential eqn for heat and Navier Stokes.

P2: When is simplex method used?

S: Explained. Talked about slack and surplus variable (he cut me in between)

P2: No no don't tell me the method. What is the starting solution?

S: I said first feasible solution would be $X_1=X_2=0$. Then we find the intercept and perform next iterations.

P2: What is bisection method?

S: Sir it is for root finding where root lies between (X_1, X_2) if $f(X_1).f(X_2)<0$.

P2: which theorem is used which leads to conclude root lies between (X_1, X_2) if $f(X_1).f(X_2)<0$?

S: Said mean value theorem. (I was not sure). But tried to explain.

P1 enters again.

P1: who is xyz? (Don't remember the name what he said)

S: I don't know

P1: So you don't follow news.

S: Sir I follow it, but I am unaware of this person.

P1: So you come from Muzaffarpur. What is the historical significance of Muzaffarpur?

S: Told about how Muzaffarpur got its name. And then I told about Khudiram Bose and how his activities led rise to revolution in Indian Freedom movement.

P1: Any medieval significance?

S: Talked about Magadha, Patliputra which is near Muzaffarpur. Gupta Dynasty. Maurya Dynasty.

P1: What other calls do you have?

S: Sir I have calls from all the IIMs.

P1: old and new both?

S: Yes Sir.

Ok you can log off. Thank you

4) Interview and WAT Experience-4

Profile:

93/91/79

Two male both 30s

P1. How was your CAP interview?

Me. Good

P1. Other calls

Me. Told

P1. How will you rate your K interview (I had in the morning)

Me. 7/10

P1. So less. What went wrong?

Me. I was not able to answer few metallurgy question. Rest was good.

P1. Okay. I will not ask you metallurgy question except one.

Me Sure

P1. What is corrosion?

Me. Told

P1. Types of corrosion?

Me. I cannot recall.

P1. Guess karo . Do some permutation.

Me. Started telling about how corrosion can be caused

P2. Tell me about your work.

Me. Told

P2. Achha you build dashboards. Suggest me a software where I can do some visualization among PowerBI, tableau and others.

Me. Talked about PowerBI being used in many places and another application that our team lead has asked us to explore

P1. Achha you follow pagalguy?

Me. Yes

P1. What are people writing about our panel?

Me. I heard you asked someone to count from 1-20

P1 started laughing

P1. Ha.. to tmko bhi A-Z bolne ko kehte hai

Me(Laughing): So should I start?

P1. No no.... tell me how much Haridwar is from Roorkee?

Me. 30km

P1. Dehradun?

Me. 60km

P1. Lucknow?

Me Five hundred something

P1. Something??? Tmko aana hoga Lucknow to kaise aaoge ?

Me(Kept silent for a moment then told): Actually I have come from Haridwar to Lucknow and it is around five hundred

P1(Smiling and Asking P2): Ok. Do you want to ask something?

P2. Yes, Tell your motivation behind doing MBA?

Me. Talked about opportunity to explore different domains and a chance to spend two years with the like-minded people who will be working towards a common goal. So a good learning opportunity.

P2. Okay. That's a fair point. Thank you...you can leave.

Greeted and left.

Might have missed 1-2 questions in between.

Overall a chilled interview. Hardly took 10-12 minutes.

5) Interview and WAT Experience-5

Date: 19.2.2021 3:00 PM

Profile:

10th/12th/grad (GEM): 95/95.4/85.7

18-month work ex @ EXL

P1 & P2 – Both male around 30-40 years old

Started at 3:30PM

P1 - How are you?

(Greeted both the panelist)

P1 - show me your ID card (Shown the aadhar)

P1 – Your username is “Suyash Mishra 4yr Ceramic Engineering”! Good, we won't be asking anything from your B.Tech then (Lol moment...I just smiled)

P1 – You are working right? Are you on leave today or working? Did we disturb you?

P1 - what other calls you have? (Replied ABCLKI)

P2 – Is this your first interview? (I replied Yes)

P1 - It's great then.

P1 – I see you are creative and have various achievements. With this stellar profile, you can get into any consulting firm...What's the purpose of doing an MBA? (Told them, but was interrupted after 3-4 sentences)

P1 – That’s ok. Didn’t you had a clarity of career goals prior to choosing Ceramic Engineering? (Told, was interrupted again)

P2 – You said you explored things in your first half of graduation...How did you choose MBA? (Told but interrupted again) few cross-questions on my internship at EY (answered)

P1- How did you prepare for the interview? What do you expect us to ask you in this interview? (I told I read about past PI experiences and I expected few clichéd questions like “tell me about yourself...MBA purpose etc)

P2 – What did you prepare? (I said personal questions, work ex and few of the current affairs questions)

P1 – Tell me Binomial distribution. (Told). Did you expected this question? (Said no, but I prepared for it)

P1 – Name your clients and what work you do for them. (Told I cannot disclose the names....and was about to describe my work but he interrupted)

P2 – We read it in your form what you do. Save it. Just name few other organizations in the same category as your client. (Told)

P1- You seem to be a gym-goer. Tell me what’s the motivation? (Interesting exchange)

P2 – You have leadership experience. Do you plan to spread gym culture at IIM Lucknow... (Didn’t expect this...lol)

P1 – Why don’t you start a gym? (I was like ...what?!) (handled it ...pheww)

P1 – Ok..I’m done (and he walked away)

P2 – Tell me one thing you like about BHU. (Told)

P2 – What do you dislike? Is politics involved in every IIT?

P2 – You can easily get into EY. (Told and justified my stance for MBA again)

P2 – Ohk...That’s it from me. (I said “Can I have a question moment?” and then smiled)

P2 – Yeah... sure. No one was asking today anything, so I didn’t bother you.

Here they said that will be all

All the best to you.

(Extremely chill interview ... no acads ...nothing substantial from work ex.... just casual conversation... I don’t what happened there)

Duration: ~15 mins

6) Interview and WAT Experience–6

Panel 1(1 young, 1 old)

They asked me to share screen to show CAT scorecard.

1. What is your Father's Business?

-said trader of Imitation Jewelry

2. Okay So tell us about yourself in short

- Gave very short introduction and mentioned only relevant things and ended with projects in Blockchain Technology

3. What is Blockchain Technology and how is it different from other technology?

- Answered with examples and mentioned something about 51% computational power (Here P1 said it was a good answer)
- 4. How can we use Blockchain in supply chain to improve agriculture?
 - gave general answer about supply chain then he asked how in agriculture, I mentioned about fractional ownership (was convinced but I could have framed it better)
- 5. What is International Gold price? (He said although your dad's business is about imitation jewellery are you aware about it?)
 - Sir don't know exactly but around 49000 INR
- 6. I asked in terms of USD and what is 1 ounce?
 - quickly calculated and said 1700\$. (He said bit less but okay you calculated, it was quick)
- 7. Do you follow any CEOs or any particular idol of yours who have done MBA and is doing well?
 - Not any particular
- 8. Name Indian CEOs working in MNCs
 - Answered
- 9. Have you studied any subjects related to management?
 - Corporate Finance, Entrepreneurship, Economics (mentioned that I took this as electives)
- 10. What you studied in Corporate Finance?
 - Financial Statements, NPV, IRR etc.
- 11. What is Time Value of Money?
 - Answered and he nodded very positively (Idk why)
- 12. Asked about something like Project risk Beta
 - I said don't know about this term but I know beta which is used in stock market and explained that
- 13. Wanted to clarify my Graduation percentage so asked about that
- 14. You get a 100% scholarship?
 - No and explained about how I receive and on what basis.
- 15. How did you got admission in Nirma University through state exams or Jee?
 - Answered

Okay Thank you, You can leave.

Overall it was good experience. Lasted for 15-17 mins. I noticed that they have read my form because they specifically asked me about my scholarship, grad percentage, management subjects which all I mentioned in my form.

No GK, No current affairs for me. Nothing technical except Blockchain.

7) Interview and WAT Experience–7

WAT Assessment

Higher pay- is it a solution to corruption?

There were 8 candidates in the group exercise. 15 minutes were allotted to the candidates for testing their respective written ability skills. I wrote about the pros and cons of higher pay directly leading to the change in mindset of money-hungry people. Talked about the scams by people receiving a fat pay check, like Rajat Gupta the first Indian CEO of a Multinational firm, MCKINSEY. He was indicted for insider trading when he was finance director of GOLDMAN SACHS.

I also, highlighted various aspects of ethics, which should be taught, starting right from childhood. I talked about various scams that have earlier taken place in India like the 2G scam, chopper scam, and CWG scam and stated how demonic is the stature of these crimes due to the big names linked to it. I also added the point how India is a corruption driven country, and what are the necessary steps required to provide a solution to the problems. I also gave examples of the ways the problem of corruption can be curbed in the country. I mentioned about Jan Lokpal Bill, and the initiative taken for transparent governance, which might turn out to be one of the most important steps.

Personal Interview

The interview lasted for about 15-20 minutes. There were 2 panelists, a Lady of around 40 years and a Sir of around 55-60 years.

Panel1: Tell me something about yourself.

Candidate: I told them about my schooling, the place where I was born and brought up, recalling my journey from a small town of Midnapore to Jadavpur and how topping there gave me self-confidence and self-belief. I also mentioned how my internship at Ericsson as a consultant gave me the required push towards management, and told them my hobbies and interests.

PANELIST2: What principles of Arya Samaj did you learn in DAV – will it help you in management?

Candidate: I was quiet awestruck, but I cogitated and gave the answer. I told them I learnt perseverance, ethics and integrity which would help me more in handling a good business rather than being only successful. I told them how we were made to perform 'havans' and yoga in our extra period in school, and how they help me concentrate and focus better on the work that's in hand.

PANELIST2: Seemed satisfied, but then asked can you tell me the name of a company that works with absolute ethics?

Candidate: Was caught absolutely off guard! I told them about TATA, Google, Yahoo, Microsoft and the way Bill Gates invested most of his income in philanthropic activities. But my biggest mistake was to take the name of Reliance (Beware guys, do not tell anything which is not under the purview of your knowledge or understanding!!)

PANELIST2: Haha!! Did you just say Reliance? My boy, you need to do some homework!!!

The baton was then taken by the Female Professor who was a little scary!!

PANELIST1: Okay X, you have done secondary market research. Can you tell me what this secondary market research is?

Candidate: I explained that basically when you do a market study of the paper and information collated by a huge market research or consultancy firms like Gartner, PWC, Deloitte etc., then that is called as secondary market research.

PANELIST1: Was pretty satisfied. Then asked me what I had done in the project?

Candidate: I told them that my research areas which were basically the upcoming technologies related to the internet of things like cognitive computing, mobile financial services, automation of vehicles, future networks etc.

PANELIST1: Can you tell me a real scenario where you could apply IOT?

Candidate: This was the best phase of my interview (smile)!! I started by telling them that I have a startup idea based on internet, of things which I would like to share with them. (Interviewers got excited!!).

Sir, I have got a business idea in line with OLA and Uber cabs. Sir/ma'am, we can connect sensors to our electrical lines. We would provide mobile phones to the electrician in a neighborhood and connect the sensors to the respective mobile phones. Whenever there is a fault in the electrical line, the nearest electrician would be notified of the problem. By GPS the nearest mobile phone will be connected and he can come and fix the problem. In this way we can have things connected, like the electrical line to the net and can bring it under the purview of the internet.

PANELIST1 seemed Satisfied!!

Again the male Prof. interjected and started asking questions.

PANELIST1: Asked questions on probability distributions that I had studied in my engineering.

Candidate: I told them about normal, Poisson and Gaussian distribution (Was expecting cross questions and got extremely tensed as I am not a stats guy).

PANELIST1: What is basic difference between Poisson and binomial distributions?

Candidate: I explained with examples, but he was not satisfied.

The next question that was asked to me was quite shocking and a little funny.

PANELIST1: Have you ever visited a saree shop with your mother? Do you know which is the most famous saree available in Midnapore district?

Candidate: Completely surprised!!! What sir? I don't sir, absolutely no idea!

PANELIST1: You would become a manager one day, but to be a good one you have to be aware of your surroundings.

The place where you stay – what is it famous for?. Which handicraft industry is famous in Midnapore district?

Candidate: I said terracotta, and how the idols and utensils made of terracotta are very famous.

PANELIST1: Not really satisfied. Asked PANELIST2 if she had any questions?

PANELIST2 said no. Then both of them said thank you and asked me to leave. I thanked them and took a breath of relief as my most difficult interview finally got over.

Verdict: Converted

8) Interview and WAT Experience–8

Venue: IIM Lucknow Campus, Noida

Profile:

10th: 95%

12th: 91.8%

Graduation: B.E Mechanical (Punjab Engineering College Chandigarh) - 85.7%

Work Experience:

10 months - Alstom India Pvt Ltd. (7/17–4/18)

1 year - ZS Associates India (5/18- 5/19)

WAT Topic

Greed is good... (Time limit: 20 mins)

I wrote about how historically greed has been an initiator of change. How greed is the cause of competition and the need to be innovative and evolving. Though I maintained the fact that greed has always had negative consequences. Ended with mentioning Mahatma Gandhi's quote "There is enough for everyone's need but not for anyone's greed".

Personal Interview Experience

2 panelists

I greeted the panelists and they asked me to sit down.

P1 asked me to show my 10th, 12th and graduation mark sheets and looked through my personal data form.

Interviewer1: Looks at my form and asks Sharma Ji aap bhi Punjab se ho ! Because of my graduation in Chandigarh Me1: (Smiling inside for the positive start of the interview but trying to not get carried away) I answer with a smile. No sir, I am from Himachal Pradesh. I studied in Chandigarh from 13–17.

Interviewer1: Looking at my pre-interview form. You have mentioned your current work experience in ZS Associates. Tell me about it?

Me1: Told them about how I am currently working on sales and marketing projects for one of the biggest pharmaceutical companies, my current project estimated around \$3 million of budget for a marketing campaign that involved segmentation.

Interviewer 2 was looking at me with a poker face.

Interviewer1: So, how does the pharma market work as he was quite curious about it?

Me1: I explained about the patient cycle and once the HCP writes a prescription the process in availing the drugs and the claim process thereof. I had some understanding about the US market and could answer properly.

Interviewer 1: Asked me about the metrics to be used and the matrix of qualitative and quantitative fields?

Me1: Told. (They cross questioned me but most of them were clarifications related to the market)

Interviewer 2: Still had a poker face on. He gets up and starts to walk out.

I keep calm and focus on the conversation ahead.

Interviewer 1: *With a satisfied look on his face* Ye sab to theek hai but koi leadership role ka experience hai?

Me1: I had a long list of my experiences for this. I was in lead of LMRC metro project (I had stars on my side that day) and had led a team of 30 operators to carry out production activities for other international Metro projects as well.

I told him how I managed the workforce with diligence (leave management, daily activity tracker, 5s, Lean blah blah...) on top of the production pressure that we faced to deliver the cars due to UP state elections.

Interviewer1: Questions me on my work in detail.

Me1: I am able to answer few questions but make sure that I tell them about my experiences more.

Interviewer 2 comes back and sits again. Still no questions asked or comments made.

Interviewer 1: Seemed satisfied with the answer and started a casual conversation.

Online series dekhte ho?

I say yes to which he says kahaan dekhte ho?

I tell him that I have Hotstar, Netflix subscriptions to which he says ki tum to Ameer ho!!

(He was having chai biscuit and felt more like a chai sutta conversation I would have with my colleagues)

Me1: No sir, it's feasible when you share the subscription and told him about how Netflix has these various plans and price brackets.

He then asks to calculate the cost per person for these plans. I am able to answer correctly.

Interviewer 2 finally gives in and starts asking.

Interviewer2: Okay, tell me whether correlation is causation?

Me1: Answered. I had this discussion one day at my home with the flatmates so was able to explain in detail. Also I brought in the example of Regression to explain the difference and how it established a mathematical relationship between the variables.

Interviewer2: Draw the graph of correlation $R = -1$

Me1: Took a pad and drew the graph. He looks at it and gives no reaction.

Interviewer 2: (Who didn't feel like much questions starts a casual conversation) Do you see Stand Up comedy.

I say yes. He asks if I know Kunal Kamra.

I had seen his new stand up two days back and had posted the John Lennon quote on my Insta story .

Me1: Discussed how Kunal Kamra uses comedy to do political satire. Also told him about the post as to how the system is equipped with the means to handle violence and want us to react that way but humour is something they do not have an answer to and acts as a means of expression while making the system uncomfortable and helpless.

I assumed that he had some interest in the political ideologies as he specifically asked me about Kunal Kamra so I brought up the Post.

Interviewer 2: (Shook his head in affirmation and went on with some additional details on the topic being discussed)

Me1: Nodding till he was done.

He lays back and looks at the old professor.

Interviewer1: Goes through my profile and asks me about the revenue of the companies I have worked in, my extra-curricular activities (I mentioned I was a part of my University Cricket Team and the Dance club).

Then he stops and asks me about why I didn't join the army (I had mentioned that I got through NDA SSB and was in the merit)

Me1: Told him on the lines of the need to explore on my own and I felt engineering was a better option for me. (I spoke what I felt when I made the choice. A bad choice though)

No reaction.

Interviewer 1: Okay x, I think we are done.

Me1: I get up. Thank you, sirs. Have a nice day.

9) Interview and WAT Experience–9

Location: Hotel Monarch Luxor, Bangalore

Profile:

10th - 92.8

12th - 90.8

B.Tech - 77.14 (Mechanical Engineering, IGDTUW)

29 months of work experience in R&D of TVS Motor Company

WAT Assessment

It's high time that the Indian government shifts its focus from manufacturing sector to agricultural sector

WAT was decent for me. I was able to come up with 3 points and correlated facts from the Financial budget for this year to the topic.

Personal Interview

2 Professors (P1 & P2)

PANELIST1 was a gentleman, around 60 years of age (He is a faculty of Operations Management in IIM L)

PANELIST2 was a middle-aged man, couldn't find his profile on the IIM L faculty directory.

CANDIDATE I entered the room, greeted them, and was told to sit down* No introduction asked

PANELIST1: Tell me about your work experience in TVS Motors

CANDIDATE I did that, pretty smoothly. I had a lot to talk about my work experience, and the work I did was pretty interesting too, along with some patents that I had the fact that I had some patents caught PANELIST2's eye, and he asked me to elaborate on that, which I did. No cross questioning

PANELIST1: Is checking out my file with all concentration. Stops at my semester marksheets. So, what all Management subjects did you have in your engineering course?

CANDIDATE The person just before me was asked the same question, so I was prepared for it. I listed the management subjects

PANELIST1: I know you would have asked the previous person, never mind. Tell me, what is the difference between quality control and quality assurance?

CANDIDATE So basically, he chose a subject of mine - Quality control & Quality Assurance (QCQA). I had absolutely no clue about this subject, it was in my 7th semester. And I had prepared for main subjects like Thermodynamics, SOM, Automotive Engineering etc, but not QCQA! I thought to myself, okay, there goes my interview

I composed myself, and attempted to answer the question with my limited knowledge. Gave PANELIST1 an answer, but he wasn't satisfied. I asked for 1 minute and a paper to jot down my points, which he nicely obliged. I tried to seem as methodical and organized as possible, and made a 2-column difference point table, started jotting down my points. Within 30 seconds I had sufficient points to start answering again. Was nicely shot down again. After this, I started to try and make logical layman comments over the difference between QC & QA, and even mentioned that my day-to-day work doesn't involve me in these parameters.

Was asked about how QCQA was employed in my company, which I told. Was asked in detail about 6 sigma, which I told. Was asked about DMAIC and DMADV, which I told.

PANELIST1: Okay, we are done with you. Have a nice day and all the best!

PANELIST2: What other calls do you have?

CANDIDATE: answered.

PANELIST2: Where are you currently settled?

CANDIDATE I answered.

10) Interview and WAT Experience-10

WAT Assessment

Happiness is a state of mind. (I asked the panelist for his watch as mine was in the bag.)

Wrote fairly well about happiness being subjective, success being undefined. Mentioned Art of living and similar programs somewhere.

Personal Interview:

PANELIST1: Tell us about yourself

Candidate: Told

PANELIST1: What is this deployment thing you do?

Candidate: Explained in layman language

PANELIST1: Why do you need multiple orgs?

Candidate: Explained

PANELIST1: What is code migration?

Candidate: Explained

PANELIST1: Oh! You are from NIT? Explain this question to me: Passes a graph and asks me to tell whether it's a function

Candidate: Drew a line parallel to y axis that intersected curve at two points.

No sir

PANELIST1: I am done

PANELIST2: I want you to give your opinion on "Whether social media has increased freedom of speech or restricted it?". Speak for nearly a minute.

panelist1: If I may interrupt, do you watch movies?

Candidate: Sir not much. I am more of a book reader.

PANELIST1: Which is the last you watched?

Candidate: Padmavat sir. Mainly because of the controversies with it.

PANELIST1: Watch enemy of the state. It is an excellent movie. Told me the actors' and directors' name. You can continue with the topic now

Candidate: Spoke

PANELIST2: Going through my file (I had script of a book I was working on in it)

So is this fiction or real story?

Candidate: Fiction sir

PANELIST2: Why do you write? Do you blog?

Candidate: Told

PANELIST2: How often? What do you write on? How many followers do you have? What is the jest of what you are writing?

Candidate: Told

Had a discussion on writing and books

PANELIST2: Name women who have made it big in global corporate except Indra Nuyi, Chanda Kochar and Anandi Subramanyam

Candidate *I am really bad at remembering names. Had read it 2-3 days ago but couldn't remember anything* Cathy Embelgert (She is the CEO of Deloitte)

PANELIST2: Any others?

Candidate: Sorry sir, I can't remember.

PANELIST2: I want to know your opinion on whether women have an advantage as managers.

Candidate: Starting to speak

PANELIST2: In three- four bullet points.

Candidate- Told

PANELIST1: Do you have call from C?

Candidate: Yes sir

PANELIST1: When is the interview?

Candidate: Sir it was day before yesterday

PANELIST1: What! How did it go?

Candidate: Not how I would have wanted it to go(laughing)

PANELIST1: It's ok. Tell me about your family background

Candidate: Told

PANELIST2: Thank you.

11) Interview and WAT Experience–11

Personal Interview

Right after I sat down, the drilling started.

PANELIST1: Your quants percentile is bad

PANELIST2: Where are you working?

(Answered. Had quit TCS and joined SSB Software Solutions)

PANELIST1: Ok so you learnt something new here. (I told yes. He checked the docs and told there was no employee number in my payslip. So he won't consider my work ex)

PANELIST2: Ask for company financials. Told he wasn't convinced and went on about it for 30 secs. (I sat there after saying that's how it is)

PANELIST1: Cuts in. So you have learnt sales at your company. You have very sad UG scores (7.24) with all E's and D's. Sell yourself. Why should I give you an admit?

Candidate: Told them my Xth and XIITH scores are good. I've done badly in UG. But I've learnt from my mistake. So I won't repeat that mistake.

PANELIST2: Is there any other reason

Candidate: Told him that my flair to do an MBA is what got me there. And that would be a major reason

PANELIST1: Okay thanks. You can leave.

12) Interview and WAT Experience–12

Venue: IIM Lucknow Campus, Lucknow

WAT Assessment

Is intelligence hereditary?

(Time limit: 20 mins)

Interview Experience

I was the first one to go in my panel

2 panelists (Interviewer 1 male and Interviewer 2 female)

I greeted the panelists and they asked me to sit down.

P1 asked me to show my 10th, 12th and graduation mark sheets to verify my documents even though it was verified at the time of document verification.

Panelist1: So you have great academics in college and you are from MNNIT. That must be some achievement.

Candidate: (Smiling inside for the positive start of the interview) Yes sir, I was among the top 5 of my batch.

Panelist2: Looking at my pre-interview form. You have mentioned work experience till Jul'18 in the form, did you leave your job?

Candidate: Told them about were supposed to write work ex till Jul'18 in the form and I am still working in my current company.

Panelist2: So, what is your designation now, are you still a trainee? You have mentioned Graduate Engineer Trainee here?

Candidate: No sir, I am a Senior Manager now, explained to them how Tata Motors went for an Organizational Effectiveness and Restructuring exercise with the help of Accenture Strategy in early 2017 to reduce the number of managerial positions from 14 to 5.

Panelist2: So, how much do you get per month?

Candidate: Told.

Panelist2: *Smiling* The designation and the salary don't match though.

Candidate: I replied smiling back, yes but it's just not about salary. Even my manager who has 12-15 years of work experience is also Senior Manager now. The salary will increase at its own pace, it is just that designations have been changed because of the OE exercise to create a linear workforce and align with the company's turnaround plan.

Panelist1: Tata Motors share price has been the biggest gainer in the market today, what do you think are the reasons and what is the current share price?

Candidate: Had been following company's stock since late and told them about the actual price and also how much it has gained since morning.

Panelist1: Why do you think the mergers have not been successful in the automotive industry?

Candidate: Answered contradicting the statement made and told about various collaborations and mergers that have been successful. Gave an example of Toyota Kirloskar in India. Told them about the recent news of Toyota and Suzuki to collaborate and share models. And concluded with saying that in the near future with the automotive industry facing a paradigm shift in terms of technology with electric vehicles, autonomous vehicles, etc. we can expect more and more manufacturers coming together to lower their developmental costs and achieve economies of scale.

Panelist1: What is the name of CEO of Nissan and the controversy related to him.

Me: Told (Though, could not recall Carlos Ghosn's first name at that time)

Panelist2: What do you think the recent buzz around electric vehicle technology in India and around the world?

Candidate: Discussed Tesla, Government of India's FAME 1 and FAME 2 schemes, Automotive Plan and Tata Motors' plan with electric cars.

Panelist2: (Interrupted) Which of coal and petrol is more polluting? How are electric vehicles creating less polluting then, if they are powered by electricity generated in thermal power plants?

Candidate: Undoubtedly coal is more polluting but we cannot wait till we shift 100% to renewable energy, to develop the electric vehicle ecosystem. We cannot switch to electric vehicles in a short span of 2-3 years. As per Government of India's plan, it is till 2030 that we aim to sell only electric cars so by then our power generation through renewables will also increase. Share of renewables in India's electricity generation is about 15-20 % and it is at an increasing trend. So, both things have to go in tandem.

Panelist1: Okay, what all management subjects did you study at your college?

Candidate: Sir, I studied Managing International Business, International Financial Management, and Managerial Economics.

Panelist2: So, what are the things a firm should keep in mind before entering an international market?

Candidate: Told on the lines of PESTEL analysis (She was not convinced though).

Interviewer 2: Do you know about Porter's Five Forces?

Candidate: I had studied it somewhere but could not recall it at that moment. Ended up saying 5 Ps of marketing to get a discontented look from the panel.

Interviewer 1: So, you are a production engineer, do you know what is production function?

Candidate: No Sir.

Panelist1: Looking at P2, do you have any more questions for him?

Panelist2: No.

Interviewer 1: Okay then.

Candidate: (Not wanting to end the interview on the negative note) Sir, I have one question in my mind, if I may ask?

Both – Yes

Candidate: Can the PGP students be a part of a live project with professors?

Then P1 explained to me about how there is a provision in the curriculum and then there was some discussion on some of the live projects that students are currently working on.

Candidate: Thank you, sir, thank you, ma'am, have a nice day.

13) Interview and WAT Experience–13

WAT Assessment

Should Happiness Index be used in place of GDP as an indicator of economic progress?

Personal Interview

(I was the first one to go in my panel)

Two professors PANELIST1 and PANELIST2 (both males)

PANELIST1: Tell us about yourself?

CANDIDATE: Told, ended by talking about my hobby of painting glass bottles and asked if they wanted to have a look at some photographs of the same. They agreed.

PANELIST1: So X, do you put up in Sundar Nagar? (This is the place next to my school)

CANDIDATE: No Sir

PANELIST1: Are your parents in government service then? (I have no idea where this came from)

CANDIDATE: No Sir

PANELIST1: Ohh just a thought. So how did you commute to your school?

CANDIDATE: We had a school bus.

PANELIST1: Alright.

PANELIST2: So X, you mentioned about the qualitative nature of the Happiness Index in your WAT, so tell us about Utility (being another qualitative concept supported by IC measurement)

CANDIDATE: Told

PANELIST2: so Indifference Curves are a measure of Utility, how do you plot them?

CANDIDATE: Told about various forms of IC's and their equations and underlying assumptions in each

PANELIST2: I don't think there is a Cobb Douglas IC like you mentioned

CANDIDATE: There is Sir

PANELIST1: Yes there is.

PANELIST2: Okay but what parameters would you use to plot an IC ?

CANDIDATE: I'd use the taste and preference of the people and the goods under consideration.
Explained with an example.

PANELIST1: What is the difference between Economic and Financial Costs?

CANDIDATE: Told

PANELIST1: When is Economic Cost less than Financial Cost?

CANDIDATE: thought, didn't arrive at any coherent answer

PANELIST1: How would you plot Average Cost curves?

CANDIDATE: Told about short run cost curves and then passing the LRAC curve through those

PANELIST1: Any other way?

CANDIDATE: Sir can't recall right now

PANELIST1: Explain demand and draw a demand curve

CANDIDATE: Done

PANELIST1: Derive this demand curve

CANDIDATE: Thinking after some time, sir I am not aware of any derivation as such

PANELIST2: Which book did you use to study Micro Economics?

CANDIDATE: Sir I cannot recall right now.... (urgh)

PANELIST2: how can you not?

CANDIDATE: Sir I realize that, but really sorry I can't recall

PANELIST1: You're from IP College right, do you know prof XYZ?

CANDIDATE: No Sir, she is not teaching anymore I guess

PANELIST1: We had a student day before from Guwahati, he derived it at once, now look at him and yourself. Delhi University is so renowned... think about it (I think this was probably made up, because PANELIST2 was from Guwahati and the University PANELIST1 spoke of, PANELIST2 said there isn't any institution as that)

CANDIDATE: Sir I think I can try explaining via Consumer equilibrium approach if that's the derivation you're asking

PANELIST1: Go ahead

CANDIDATE: Explained, IC, income and substitution effect, price movement, offer curve

PANELIST2: Good Good. Was your reading Hal Varian

CANDIDATE: (now slightly excited) yes sir it was Varian!!

PANELIST1: What is this offer curve also known as?

CANDIDATE: Sir... price offer curve? I am not sure though

PANELIST2: You haven't revised right?

CANDIDATE: umm yeah: p

PANELIST1: Yeah so now you've done it just fine, now plot the demand curve from this

CANDIDATE: Sir, we have price ratios from the curve, we will simply plot it now.

PANELIST1: Yeah, that's what

PANELIST2: Good, take a toffee!

CANDIDATE: I heard him but I was sort of involved in this academic ferry, so I asked PANELIST1 if he initially wanted me to explain LRAC using the similar graphical approach of Isocost tangency at the isoquant curve

PANELIST1: Yes, exactly. We murmured the entire process and they seemed satisfied

PANELIST2: (Again), take the toffee!

CANDIDATE: Taken

PANELIST2: What other calls do you have?

CANDIDATE: Told

PANELIST2: All the best

CANDIDATE: Thank you sir

14) Interview and WAT Experience-14

Venue: The Mirador Hotel, Mumbai

Profile:

10th: 84.67 (RBSE)

12th: 74.77(RBSE)

CAT Percentile: 98.44

Graduation: 7.78- Electronics and Communication Engineering-NIT Trichy

Work Exp: 30 Months-Automobile Sector

WAT Assessment

Right to Information (RTI) Act should be applicable to Political Parties and Media.

(Wrote about the RTI act 2005 and mentioned the purpose of RTI Act like can be used for accountability and transparency in governance. RTI ACT can empower the citizens. Wrote about the media as a fourth important pillar in democracy and mentioned about the role of political parties in the government.)

15 mins and can write on both side of the A4 Page(given by them).

After WAT you could get your documents verified.

Personal Interview

I was the second in my panel. 2 Panelist, Let's call them PANELIST1 and PANELIST2.(both are the male professors and in the early 40s).

PANELIST1 called my name and I entered the room. I stand near the seat to wait for the permission to be seated.

PANELIST1: Sit down, please.

Candidate: Thank you, Sir.

PANELIST1: Give me your personal data form.

Candidate: Given

PANELIST1: He scanned the Personal Data form. So X, tell me about yourself.

Candidate: After the well-rehearsed introduction where I talked about My Strengths, Work Experience. I also talked about the Patent, Marketing Project and other Projects I did and also introduced my hobbies.

PANELIST1: By looking at your profile, you are good at technical, then why do you want to do MBA?

Candidate: Told them how MBA will be beneficial for me in long run and how I can contribute more to the company.

Till now PANELIST2 was observing me and here PANELIST2 asked 1st Question.

PANELIST2: So X you are working in the X Company, describe your work profile.

Candidate: Explained my typical day-to-day job and also the proactive measures we take to improve the suppliers.

I told about the Supplier Improvement Project and explain the procedure.

PANELIST2: What is the procedure for Supplier Rating?

Candidate: Explained the Rating procedure and risk associated with the Suppliers.

PANELIST1: What are the actions taken to improve the poor performing suppliers?

Candidate: Once again explained the Supplier Improvement Process(in a different way) and other things related to the Supplier Improvement.

I work in the Supplier Quality Department.

PANELIST2: Since you are working in Quality Department, Do you Know the Six Sigma?

Candidate: I know a little about it, but I did not work on the Six Sigma Project.

PANELIST2. Which company Started the Six Sigma?

Candidate: Sir, Motorola Started the Six Sigma (I won a Six Sigma Quiz recently :)).

PANELIST2: Do you know what is the Standard Deviation(σ) mean in Six Sigma?

Candidate: σ measure the spread around the mean.

PANELIST2: What does 6σ mean?

Candidate: Talked about the accuracy level achieved at the 6σ level and told about the $\pm 3\sigma$ around the mean.

PANELIST2: What is the difference between Precision and Accuracy?

Candidate: Accuracy means how accurately you are measuring (how close your values to the given specifications) and Precision means how repetitively you are measuring (close to specification).

PANELIST2: Gave a situation to choose between the two parts. mean value=60. First Part: Standard Deviation=15,

Measured Value=62, Second Part: Standard Deviation=10, Measured Value=68. Which part you will choose and why? Candidate: I choose the First Part and told him about the process variation in the longer run... (I do not know whether this is correct or not) :)

Now PANELIST2 pass the baton to PANELIST1

PANELIST1: Asked about the growth rate of Manufacturing Sector.

Candidate: Sir, I do not know about the growth rate of the manufacturing sector but the contribution of manufacturing sector to India's GDP is 9% (later checked it is 16%).

PANELIST1: What is the growth rate of Automobile Sector?

Candidate: Sir I do not know about the overall growth rate of Automobile Sector, but I can tell about the growth rate of my company.

PANELIST1: What is it?

Candidate: Told the growth rate and Q3 results of the Company.

PANELIST1: What is the market share:

Candidate: Told about the market share in the Commercial Vehicles and Passenger Vehicles.

PANELIST1: Since you are working in Tata Group, Do you think the Nano is not a great success for Tata Motors and what are the reasons behind it?

Candidate: Sir I personally think, we would get more from this project and explained the reasons behind it.

PANELIST1: Do you think that is Nano a poor product?

Candidate: Sir, Nano is not a poor product. Nano is the best product in its segment and price range and no other companies launched the vehicle at the Initial Prices of Nano.

PANELIST1: What are your views on Corus Acquisition?

Candidate: Sir I do not know much about the steel sector and I do not about this acquisition.

PANELIST1: What about the Tata Daewoo acquisition?

Candidate: Told about the acquisition year. We modified the Tata Daewoo Truck according to the Indian Customers and launched Tata Prima Trucks in the year 2008. Talked about the Tata Tata Prima Truck features like Adjustable Seat, Hand rests, Telematics, tachograph, Cruise Control, Music System and others.

PANELIST1: You are acting like a Tata Group salesperson. PANELIST1 and PANELIST2 both are smiling.

Candidate: Told about a project about the Tata Prima Trucks.

PANELIST1 asked PANELIST2, any questions. and He says NO.

PANELIST1: Ok X, We are done. Thank You.

Candidate: Thank You Sir. have a nice day.

PANELIST1: have a nice day X.

15) Interview and WAT Experience-15

Venue: The Mirador Hotel, Mumbai

Profile:

CAT Percentile: 98.44

10th: 84.67 (RBSE)

12th: 74.77(RBSE)

Graduation: 7.78- Electronics and Communication Engineering-NIT Trichy

Work Exp: 30 Months-Automobile Sector

WAT Assessment:

Right to Information (RTI) Act should be applicable to Political Parties and Media.

(Wrote about the RTI act 2005 and mentioned the purpose of RTI Act like can be used for accountability and transparency in governance. RTI ACT can empower the citizens. Wrote about the media as a fourth important pillar in democracy and mentioned about the role of political parties in the government.)

15 mins and can write on both side of the A4 Page(given by them). After WAT you could get your documents verified.

Interview Process:

I was the second in my panel. 2 Panelist, Let's call them PANELIST1 and PANELIST2.(both are the male professors and in the early 40s).

PANELIST1 called my name and I entered the room. I stand near the seat to wait for the permission to be seated.

PANELIST1: Sit down, Please.

Candidate: Thank you, Sir.

PANELIST1: Give me your personal data form.

Candidate: Given

PANELIST1: He scanned the Personal Data form. So X, tell me about yourself.

Candidate: After the well-rehearsed introduction where I talked about My Strengths, Work Experience. I also talked about the Patent, Marketing Project and other Projects I did and also introduced my hobbies.

PANELIST1: By looking at your profile, you are good at technical, then why do you want to do MBA?

Candidate: Told them how MBA will be beneficial for me in long run and how I can contribute more to the company.

till now PANELIST2 was observing me and here PANELIST2 asked 1st Question.

PANELIST2: So X you are working in the X Company, describe your work profile.

Candidate: Explained my typical day-to-day job and also the proactive measures we take to improve the suppliers.

I told about the Supplier Improvement Project and explain the procedure.

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Candidate: Accuracy means how accurately you are measuring (how close your values to the given specifications) and Precision means how repetitively you are measuring (close to specification).

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Candidate: I choose the First Part and told him about the process variation in the longer run... (i do not know whether this is correct or not) :)

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PANELIST1: What is it?

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PANELIST1: You are acting like a Tata Group salesperson. PANELIST1 and PANELIST2 both are smiling.

Candidate: Told about a project about the Tata Prima Trucks.

PANELIST1 asked PANELIST2, any questions. and He says NO.

PANELIST1: Ok X, We are done. Thank You.

Candidate: Thank You Sir. have a nice day.

PANELIST1: have a nice day X.

And that was it. NO TOFFEES.

16) Interview and WAT Experience–16

Venue: IIM L, Noida Campus

Profile:

10th - 9.2 CGPA (87.4%)

12th - 93.6

B.E. Instrumentation and Control (NSIT) - 67.7%

CAT 2017 - 99.76%

Work Experience - Associate at Axtria (~19 months into the job at the time of appearing for the interview)

WAT Assessment

There is no wrong time to do the right thing.

I was 2nd in my group to be called in for the interview and I was greeted by the same professors who were present during the WAT.

There were 2 panelists, 1 Male (PANELIST1) and 1 Female (PANELIST3) and both of them were relatively young.

PANELIST3 - Tell us something about yourself!

Candidate - Gave the prepared answer.

PANELIST1 - So you have done Instrumentation and Control, what do you know about Control Variable?

Candidate - (I thought this was very non specific so I chose to clarify what the prof wanted to know exactly) I asked him if he wish to know about how the control system work or if he is indicating towards the feedback system. (I read about the Control variable later and it's actually a thing but I had no idea about it)

PANELIST1 - (He understood I was not aware) Leave this, so what tools do you work with in your project?

Candidate - (My work was plan modelling, reporting and client management) Excel, SQL and other basic office software

PANELIST1 - here is an array of data, what is the best way to represent it? (It was 1-D)

Candidate - Either pie or bar.

PANELIST1 - Changes the data to 2-d and asks the same question.

Candidate - Either bar or stacked bar graph.

PANELIST1 and PANELIST3 - Why will you use stacked bar graph and what are the advantages?

Candidate - answered to their satisfaction with an example.

Now PANELIST3 starts her round of questions

PANELIST3 - I see that you run and play table tennis, who is the top ranked Indian TT player? Candidate - Answered with the top ranked Male and Female player.

PANELIST3 - Which state do they belong to?

Candidate - Answered.

PANELIST3 - You see TT tables everywhere but we have not won any medals at the international level, what is the reason for that?

Candidate - Told them that we have good players coming up and we recently won silver at the junior world championship. Also, in the coming years we will see an increase in the representation at the international level as we will have current best players guiding the young players which is a very important factor to compete at that level.

PANELIST3 - Ok, who is the fastest Indian half marathon runner? Candidate - I dont know the name, but I know that the record was made in 2017 at the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon and told them the time(read it on the same day).

PANELIST3 - Can you name any chess player? (absolutely random)

Candidate - Was able to come up with the names of 3 players.

PANELIST3 - List all the Grand slams in Tennis chronologically.

Candidate - Answered.

It was one the shortest interview I had (under 10 mins) and there was no particularly difficult question which they asked.

17) Interview and WAT Experience-17

Venue: Hotel Taj Bengal, Kolkata

Profile: Engineer with 3+ years workex.

WAT Assessment:

India is a hot bed for technological breakthroughs and innovations due to its regional diversity. (May not be exact wordings)

Gave few examples of digital India and concluded that technology can be used as a customized product to varied language speaking group.

Personal Interview:

Since I was the last one in the interview I had to wait till end, got time to go through profiles of Professors as it always helps, in my case it didn't made much difference but at least I was aware that I should not speak something uncertain related to their work areas.

PANELIST1 & PANELIST2. PANELIST1 was a very senior professor and PANELIST2 was a middle-aged gentleman.

(Entered the room and was asked to take seat, handed over the documents and they were going through them)

PANELIST1: How do you feel being the last candidate in the panel, give 3 advantages and 3 disadvantages. Candidate: (I was expecting this question and had already thought something about it.) In advantages I spoke, I got to interact with many people here, since I am the last one so I have will good amount of time to discuss with panel (they smiled and said, "no we can't extend much as we have lunch-break coming up") and third point I made up and said that I could roam around a bit in Taj Hotel. Disadvantage I told, I won't be able to share mine experience with other students as all of them have left... (I was thinking of other points then PANELIST1 interrupted.)

PANELIST1: So is that an advantage or disadvantage?

Candidate: (I got confused as if I answer anything dubious I will be cross questioned so I was just thinking about it and the silence continued, in mean time they were going through my documents)

PANELIST1: You are earning decent and quite settled why do you want to do an MBA now?

Candidate: (Standard why MBA answer).

PANELIST1: What do think where is online booking cab industry heading to, aren't they adding up to pollution? (I was working in similar industry)

Candidate: (I spoke about share/pool options but he was not satisfied and then the discussion started regarding those who own car vs who use public transport somehow I concluded saying there are several factors impacting this but products like share/pool are definitely targeted to address this.)

PANELIST2: Why 'No Refusal' is being written on Taxis in Kolkata?

Candidate: (I didn't know this and they were shocked as I was working in the same industry)

PANELIST2: What is difference between white taxis & yellow ones (Kolkata centric question) ?

Candidate: (Answered)

PANELIST1: What do you think about self-driving cars, what is the future?

Candidate: (Spoke about recent Uber accident and said infrastructure is not sufficient in India)

PANELIST1: What do you think who was responsible for the accident (accident of a driverless car)? What about other countries where we have world class infrastructure?

Candidate: (Spoke that it is the entire company which is responsible for that accident, right from Tech Team to Marketing Tea and spoke that in other countries it might be possible but we can't go ahead with current self driving cars)

PANELIST1: What do you think will happen to drivers due to this?

Candidate: (Spoke about recent article of an Indian Goods Transport company where they were speaking

about the number of decrease in drivers number y-o-y basis and concluded that it will address this future problem.)

PANELIST2: What does Metro Cash and Carry do? Is it an Indian company? (They picked it up from my address as I used to stay near it, I wasn't prepared for this)

Candidate: (Answered but I was not sure of its headquarter)

From here onwards I was finding it difficult to answer and the panelists were not satisfied with my answers and expecting more.

PANELIST2: What do you think, is it an FDI, does India has FDI, is Metro Cash & Carry a form of FDI?

Candidate: (Answered but was not that confident but concluded that since its MNC and it is in India then it should be an FDI)

PANELIST1: What is GDP?

Candidate: (Answered, but by mistake I used term NET and they were disappointed)

PANELIST1: Suppose someone's daughter who is an Indian works in US, she earns there \$100. If she sends money to her father will that be then included in Indian GDP or US GDP?

Candidate: It will be included in US GDP as the company is in US. (Then discussion started in context of goods & services produced outside or inside countries' boundaries etc, I got confused and changed my answer to India, they were not happy)

Overall Interview turned towards stress interview in end but panelists were very decent and mature. They were expecting me to speak things logically and give my personal opinion about it.

18) Interview and WAT Experience–18

Location:

IIM L Noida Campus

Profile:

Engineer (CSE)

10/12/Grad/CAT: 91.2 / 93.8 / 80/ 98.7

Work Ex: 30 months in IT

Location: IIM L Noida Campus

WAT Assessment:

US China trade war is not a zero-sum game

Personal Interview:

(Duration: ~12 minutes)

2 professors PANELIST1, PANELIST2

PANELIST1: (Looking at my form)

What other calls do you have?

Where do you work?

If NDA does not come into power again, who do you think are going to be the PM candidates in that case? *Discussion about regional parties and leaders*

PANELIST2: Yesterday was International Women's Day. Why is that day celebrated?

What were the outcomes of World War 2?

What major organization came into existence after World War 1?

Who was Indira Gandhi?

PANELIST1: (Pointing to PANELIST2) Sir ask that question. Kal bhi nahi pata tha kuch logo ko

PANELIST2: (To me) Who was the father of Rajiv Gandhi?

What is our National Song and National Anthem?

Who wrote the National Song?

Who wrote the National Anthem?

PANELIST1: (Interrupting) This should not be even a question. Tell me who composed the National Anthem.

PANELIST1: (Talking to PANELIST2 again!) Getting into the history of our National Anthem *Meanwhile I jump in with my own questions as they started talking among themselves*

PANELIST1: (To me) Who gave the title of Mahatma-to-Mahatma Gandhi?
OK. We are done!

19) Interview and WAT Experience–19

Venue: The Mirandor, Mumbai

Profile:

10th - 95%

12th - 93%

Engineering - 76.26%

Working with Hitachi Consulting for 23 months

CAT Percentile- 96.6

Category - NC-OBC

WAT Assessment:

Artificial Intelligence - The future or just a buzz? (Went well, discussed how it helps eliminate non-intelligent chores and helps humans focus their energy on development and research that requires human effort, also talked in length about areas it shouldn't be implemented in, such as hospitality where people crave a human touch in certain capacity. In all, a very balanced article with good examples)

Interview Experience:

Two professors, let's call them PANELIST1 and PANELIST2.

PANELIST1: Tell us something about yourself.

Candidate: Talked about my journey in a short story format, emphasised on facts that would trigger their interest. They caught onto my being a spoken word poet and that I am a published writer

PANELIST2: Tell us how spoken word is different from conventional poetry

Candidate: Explained

PANELIST2: What did you write about in the book?

Candidate: Self-love. Being bullied as a child for my physical appearance and how I overcame it. I hope it would affect someone who rubs exorbitant amount of fairness cream at night to look like the rest of the world. I hope to build a community where body positivity is encouraged.

PANELIST2: Don't you think the millennials are obsessed with body positivity? This didn't gain so much importance in our times? Aren't you focusing too much on things that are superficial?

Candidate: Explained how these things affect how we see ourselves and we build walls around our capabilities just because the world says we don't look like someone people would want to see lead. (PANELIST2 and PANELIST1 smiled, they understood it was a personal mission more than anything else)

PANELIST2: What is your role at Hitachi? What project do you work on?

Candidate: Explained. A few cross questions on the same.

PANELIST1: Do you play any sport?

Candidate: I am a state level table tennis player and have won multiple championships at Hitachi as well.

PANELIST2: How many ping pong balls can you fit in a Boing 737.

Candidate: (I had practiced guesstimate questions so I knew how to approach these) gave a well informed and calculated answer after showing all working steps on a sheet of paper.

PANELIST1: Thank you we are done.

Overall it was a short interview and I left the room unable to assess my performance.

20) Interview and WAT Experience-20

Profile

GEM, B.Tech Electrical

Acads - 9/9/8

Cat Score - 99.78

Work ex - 17 months in telecom and 15 months in consultancy/analytics

WAT Assessment

Glass ceiling still exists

Personal Interview

PANELIST2 - Started with tell me about yourself

Candidate - Explained. Covered almost everything I had prepared.

PANELIST1 - Asked if I remember academics.

Candidate - Yes.

PANELIST1 - Asked me 2 questions - Explain Fourier and Laplace transform functions and the integral limits

used in the formula.
Candidate - Explained.

PANELIST1 - Asked a simple logical puzzle (simple because I had encountered it before) Candidate -
Asked for a minute to think. Verified the solution in my head. Before answering I told them that I had
seen it before.

PANELIST2 - Okay we are done. Wait what are your hobbies. Oh you already told us before. Okay we are
done. Wait when was your college renamed.

Candidate - Answered.

21) Interview and WAT Experience–21

Venue: Noida campus

Profile:

B.com (H), 1 yr work ex

WAT Assessment

Political parties should be funded by state and not by industrialists or public donations

Personal Interview

Panel- 2 interviews, both professors

Duration- ~20mins

PANELIST1- Introduce yourself

Candidate: Told the well-prepared answer

PANELIST2: What was your role at bain?

Candidate: told

PANELIST1: How can you rate a company?

Candidate: asked for more clarification and then answered.

PANELIST2: what is coefficient of correlation?

Candidate: told

PANELIST2: Is correlation an indicator of causation?

Candidate: explained with examples

PANELIST2: give example of a cause when correlation is 0 but causation is 100%?

Candidate: can't recall at the moment

PANELIST2: what are the conditions for profit maximisation?

Candidate: told

PANELIST1: If a train is moving 130 m long and crosses the bridge in 30 seconds at 45 km/hr find the length of the bridge?

Candidate: calculated and told

PANELIST1: tell us more about the work that you did?

Candidate: told

PANELIST1: what is success according to you?

Candidate: told them

(Then they started having a funny laugh at my answer)

Then i explained myself further...then they made a litte giggle...

PANELIST1: Have you had breakfast?

Candidate: No sir!

PANELIST1: (offered me a plate of biscuits, which was very nice of him)

I took one and left!

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CATKing IIM WAT PI Schedule 2021-22

DAY	TOPIC	TIME
Monday	Marketing Mondays	10 to 11 pm
Tuesday	Current Affair Industry Insights (GD/WAT)	10 to 11 pm
Wednesday	How to Crack Interviews	10 to 11 pm
Thursday	How to Crack Case Study/SOP	10 to 11 pm
Friday	Finance Fridays	10 to 11 pm
Saturday	Personal Interview Must Do Questions	10 to 11 pm
Sunday	Concept Builders: GD/WAT	10 to 11 pm

Note: This schedule will be followed every week till March. Some variations may be there as per the B-School interview schedule Students will be informed about it in due course.

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