



CATKing IIM Shillong

WAT PI Workbook

Congrats for Getting an IIM Shillong Call!

How to use this workbook?

This is a consolidation of **20** IIM Shillong, 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 Shillong looks for?

- Excellent Academic, cocurricular and extracurricular Background
- Work experience
- Gender and academic Diversity gives an edge
- Personal Interview Evaluates Candidates on Qualities of – Focus, Clarity of Thought, Learnability, Ethical Dilemma, Ability to handle pressure, Decision making skills, Discipline

Prerequisites:

- 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. Unethical practices by doctors are increasing. Provide some solutions to improve the current scenario.
2. It is better for old people to live in retirement homes away from rush of city. Do advantages of living in retirement homes outweigh the disadvantages

Insights - Interview

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

Interview Panel Details - 2 to 3 people (Professor and Alumni)

Interview Type - Detailed Interviews check your perspective, thought process, interests and knowledge

Interview discussion Pointers – (as per IIM-I 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).
- They can ask about your hobbies and interests.
- 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.

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1) Interview and WAT Experience–1

The interview was in Delhi on 20th March 2017 morning slot.

Getting straight to my experience, I was the last in my panel to be called for the interview. I had been chit-chatting with other candidates in my panel and other panels as well before my call. All of them had better calls than me on account of their better profiles/ cat scores/ reservations. Most of them already had their interviews at multiple older IIMs and were sharing their experiences. This was the only 'old' IIM call that I had, so I mostly listened.

My name was called and I went in for the interview. After formal greetings, they asked me to hand over my file and settle down. My interview panel had a Male in 40s and a Female of almost the same age, so for the sake of convenience let's call them M and F respectively.

F: Why are your engineering grades so low? You were a promising student in school, what happened?

Me: Ma'am I lacked incentives, to perform well in engineering exams. In school the prospective of being honoured in a ceremony was enough for me to work hard. I studied engineering, did my projects well, just didn't feel the need to work extra hard on the marks front.

F: Okay, so you're from Chandigarh. What's the symbol that welcomes you when you reach Chandigarh?

Me:(made the symbol with my hand) Ma'am the Openhand. It me..

F: (cuts me in between) What does it mean?

Me: It me..ans that the citizens welcome you with open arms and an open mind.

F: What does the thumb signify?

Me: Uh Ma'am sorry I've no idea.

F: It's Okay, So you've done some parliamentary debating, what is Westminster Parliament?

Me: I can only make an informed guess that it is a system followed by the British.

(turns out I was close)

Talked a bit about Chandigarh, Punjab elections, their effect on Chandigarh.

Now the male interviewer who was sitting quietly interrupted with a question.

M: Do you know who DC is?

Me: (given my background in Mechanical Engineering) Sir, Dilip Chhabria? Yes sir, he's a car designer based out of India.

M: What is the difference between the car designed by him, and let's say, Honda?

Me: He focuses on the design front and makes exclusive cars that are limited edition on the other hand mainstream car manufacturers like Honda, manufacture cars to be sold for...

(Cuts me)

M: (Bombarded me with a series of technical questions which were mostly Basic)

I answered most of them and politely said no to those I had no clue about.

F: So, Modi ji needs so many engineers for his skill India initiative and you are here, shouldn't you be supporting our Prime Minister's cause?

See Also: Disclaimer

Me: (After a slight pause) Ma'am Modi (Correcting myself) our Honourable Prime Minister needs good engineers. There needs to be no compromise on brilliance.

This sort of turned out better than I expected, Both the interviewers cracked and it became the much-needed ice breaker.

F: So, you've accepted already that you're not a good engineer? You've not even been in the industry

Me: More than just the skills, I believe a good engineer requires a drive for engineering, I feel I have a similar push for management roles and it will be good for the economy as a whole if I would not be an engineer.

Then they asked my other calls and before leaving,

The famous IIM Candy Conundrum.

They asked me to take some candies from a bowl on the table.

Me: *sighs*

F: What happened?

Me: "Ma'am subha se kuchh nahi khaya hai."

Haven't had anything since morning.

M: Take a fistful of candies. *brings a bowl of kaajus* and another fistful of these.

F: * takes an apple out of her bag* "Lo Beta, yeh meri Taraf Se."

This is from my side.

I thanked them and left.

2) Interview and WAT Experience-2

IIM Shillong Interview experience

1 April 2021

Profile -87/78/77 - mechanical engineer

CAT percentile -99.51 (94.4/98.66/99.46)

1M,1F

Good afternoon

Male panellist

- So xx you have done btech?
- working at atlas copco?
- mechanical ?

Yes to all.

- You had maths in engineering

Yes differential calculus, used in vibration analysis.

- So tell me about electric technology in vehicles?

Told about how electric vehicles come somewhat late in India as compared to USA etc (because of tesla). But its gaining trend in India too. Also told how its affecting ICE market too. hybrid cars are used, energy recovered from devices like mguh, mguk etc.

- Mechanical engineering that goes in a car?

Told that i was in sae supra

Heart of the car - (ICE) talked about its mechanical components

Gearbox

Transmission system

steering

suspension etc.

- Difference in dynamics of a diesel and petrol car

Told about the basic difference SI, CI

More vibrations in diesel etc.

- In your form you said something about 3rd in sae supra.

Explained.

- Oh ohk you like F1 ? Who is world champion ?

Sir Lewis Hamilton for last few years

- Who provides engine to red bull racing

Honda F1 for the last few years

- Who did before that ?

Renault F1... but they were not happy with that engine so they switched it.

- Team Principal of Red bull ?

Christian Horner since the time they won 4 championships with Sebastian Vettel

- Who Sebastian Vettel ?

Yes

- What about Force India ?

Told now it's Aston Martin racing after being bought by Lawrence stroll a Canadian businessman. Also told that it was named racing point till last year

Female panelist

- Ok pavan what else do you do apart from watching racing on weekends ?

Told i volunteer in an ngo

i like reading novels

i like watching sitcoms

- Do you follow politics ?

Yes

- Whats going on in politics nowadays

5 state elections

Nandigram election going on as we speak. from where mamata banerjee is contesting

Modi visit to Bangladesh (some people say it might have something to do with west bengal elections)

International politics - Quad meeting took place - discussion on rare earth metals and vaccines

- Ok coming to Shillong , what do you think about permits required to travel in north east?

I haven't visited north east since childhood . (Just to divert the topic). But i just heard a speech by Nitin Gadkari (Road transport , highway minister) speaking about how they are trying to make things smoother by establishing a north east development entity etc.

- Ok pavan you can drop off the call

Thankyou Sir/Mam

Overall around 10-15 min Interview

3) Interview and WAT Experience–3

Background

10th - 95% (CBSE)

12th - 92% (CBSE)

BTech (Civil Engineering)- 7.25

CAT percentile - 99.57 percentile (GEM Fresher)

Due to the prevailing COVID-19 situation IIM Shillong interview was held online. Case based GD which also was part of admission process was scrapped this year. So in final selection, 70 percent weightage was given to Personal Interview and remaining 30 percent to CAT score.

There were two professors, one male (M) and one female (F). Interview commenced with initial greetings.

F - Tell us about yourself including your hobbies.

Me - Told well prepared answer.

F - Vijay hazare trophy is awarded in which sport?(Even though I didn't mention sports as my hobby)

Me - Ma'am its for Cricket.

F - Okay! then Duleep trophy?

Me - Ma'am this also is for cricket only.

F - Tell me one trophy which used to be there but now it's not being held?

Me - Thought for sometime, but couldn't answer. Said sorry.

F - Tell me about history of Chhattisgarh (my home state).

Me - Covered from very ancient time. Lord Sri Ram's mother was born here that's why it was known as Dakshin kausala in ancient times. Then talked about Kalachuri dynasty that ruled for decades, Maratha empire then colonial British. Ended the answer with its demarcation out of MP in 2001.

F - Tell me about history of cricket.

Me- Told from colonial British time to now.

F - Famous Tabla players? (I am prolific Tabla player in case you want to know from where this question came from)

Me- Told briefly about Ustead Zakhir Hussain, Ustead Alla Rakha and Pandit Anindo Chatterjee.

M - So you are civil engineer?

Me - Yes ma'am

M- What are fascinating civil engineering structures being built in India or already built?

Me - Talked about highest Bridge in world being built in Jammu and Kashmir (Chenab bridge), it's features (blast proof, wind sensors, earthquake resistant), then talked about Ram mandir (it's structural features, difficulties being faced, how they are proceeding), Statue of unity.

Now M takes the charge

M - Are you comfortable with concrete technology?

Me - Yes sir!

P2- Why concrete is weak in tension?

Me - Answered.

M - How compressive strength of concrete is found? Unit? What does M indicates? How much strength concrete gains in 28 days? In 14 days?

Me - Answered all.

M - If concrete is weak in tension, how we used it?

Me - Told about RCC and PSC and explained him deeply.

M - Do you know speciality about Howrah bridge?

Me- Talked about it not having any piers, it being doubly balanced cantilever beam and explained him about how it resists bending moment and it is made up of 25600 tonnes of high tensile alloy steel from Tiscrom (TATA).

M - Define Surface tension and viscosity?

Me - Defined

M - What you know about IIM Shillong?

Me- Told

M - That's okay from our side. You can log out. Thanks!

Me - Thank you Sir and ma'am. Hope you both have a good day ahead.

Verdict - Converted

Interview and WAT Experience—4

Interview in the midst of the pandemic. Hence, fortunately or unfortunately, I did not have to travel to any location for the interview. Group Discussion round didn't happen either (I'm glad)

Profile:

CAT percentile — 94.89

10/12/Grad (Engg Female) — 84/87/83

Work experience — 46 months in IT industry

Interview went as follows:

Date of interview — 05-April-2021

Male (M) and female (F) panelists both looked in their 30s. F was wearing a mask so couldn't see her expressions.

F: TMAY

Me: Told

F: What are the 4 languages you speak?

Me: English, Hindi, Telugu, Bengali

F: How have the blue collar jobs been affected due to the pandemic?

Me: Started with blue collar jobs then mentioned about how it affected every employee in general.

F: I asked only about blue collar but you gave a holistic view which is good.

Me: Uncomfortable smile

F: Explain your job role.

Me: Told

F: What are your hobbies.

Me: Mentioned about reading, working out and traveling.

F: Which book did you read?

Me: Told. No cross questioning on this further.

Hands over to M

M: You mentioned that you provide inputs to the development team if there are any disruptions. Why do they happen in the first place? Shouldn't there be a proper UAT for it?

Me: Sorry sir, but UAT is not part of my job role, another team handles it. Cross questioned a little and moved on.

M: What was your discipline during graduation.

Me: Instrumentation Engineering

M: I've always wanted to ask this to an engineer and I never got a chance to ask it so far. What kind of communication channels are used for satellite communications? Or rather, do they operate on low or high frequency?

Me: Tried to guess something. A lot of cross questioning and he moved on.

M: How do you think India is faring w.r.t. covid cases.

Me: Told

M: You mentioned the term second wave. What does second stand for here?

Me: Haath se waves jaisa banaya like how kids do out of car windows 🤔 He started laughing.

M: Okay, that's it from my side. You can disconnect right now.

F interrupts and asked me to show my Throw Ball certificate. I showed them the hard copy.

M: Is throw ball a huge sport like cricket?

Me: No. It is at a very nascent stage.

M: Is it part of the Olympics?

Me: No. Not sufficient number of countries play it.

M: How many countries are required to play, for a game to be qualified for Olympics?

Me: Took few seconds but couldn't answer because I had no clue and didn't want to make an incorrect assumption.

M: Make a wild guess.

Me: I said 15 - 20 (It is actually 75. Not even close)

F: Okay we are finally done now. You may log off.

Lasted around 20 mins. Little grilling.

As you can see, I could not answer a lot of questions, nor did I have a great percentile, plus a very average profile. However, I was confident and answered each question individually. I did not allow the disappointment of one question to linger on to the next.

Colleges don't care if you know everything. They only want to see how you handle an uncomfortable question/scenario and it is perfectly okay to say that you don't know something and please do not lie (if you do lie, do it confidently).

One good thing about IIM Shillong is that the weight for an interview is around 70% so even if your profile isn't that great, you can woo them over with your interview.

Verdict: DIRECT CONVERT

Interview and WAT Experience–5

Background: GEM

CAT: 99.4

10th : 95%

12th: 90.8%

NIT Raipur (2018) 82.3%

Work ex: 3 years (ZS Associates)

Interview Date and Time: 4th March,2021 11 AM (Online)

2 Male Interviewers — P1 and P2

P1

How do your friends describe you?

Situation when your friend didn't like you. Prove with an example.

Smart city project. Describe in brief. Why is Bhilai not in smart city project?

Why Imran Khan loans from IMF and not World Bank?

Do you know about P&G? What are the brands under P&G?

What are FMCG? Why are they named so?

Your views on electric vehicles in India?

Voltage required for charging vehicles? Can India develop infrastructure for it?

What do you do at ZS?

What type of statistical test you have used?

When is T test used?

How do you fill missing values in a dataset?

Do you think p value is enough for testing?

What is ANOVA? When do you use it?

Do you sleep at night? Why? Don't you have passion for anything?

P2

What is the difference in Electricity transmission and distribution?

What is used for stepping up voltage? How to step up?

Open wire system vs underground cable? Can India have underground cables why or why not.

Different types of motors. What are demerits of induction motor?

What are recent developments in power electronics industry?

Solar power future prospects in India? Efficiency of solar panels?

What do you do apart from work?

You are Electrical Engineer then why Analytics then now MBA?

Were your parents not aware of which field would be better for you? Your mother and father are educated enough to decide the same then why didn't they.

Why didn't you choose computer science engineering?

Can MBA solve all your problems?

Your life has been a sine wave. You are not firm on your decisions.

A 27 minutes stress Interview. Was able to answer 60% questions with satisfaction.

Verdict: Waitlisted

Interview and WAT Experience–6

CAT Percentile: 97.84

Profile: General Category, Engineer, Male with no work experience.

Academics: Class X → 9.6/10 (approximately 91%), Class XII → 93.7% (Intermediate),
B.Tech in Electronics and Computer Engineering (ECM) → 86%

Extracurricular Activities: Marketing Head and Board Member of a student run NGO, NSS Team Lead, Marketing Deputy of The Robotics Club, Mentor in The Robotics Club and passive participant in a few other clubs.

Group Discussion and Interview:

The interview was at Hotel Fortune Park JP Celestial. I had been allotted the morning slot and I was asked to report at 8:30AM. IIM Shillong is the only IIM which has a case based GD. I had my GD along with 6 other candidates.

The case was a really simple case. It was about a cake manufacturing company which was facing losses for the past few months and had a personal brand of cakes. It was given an opportunity to become a subcontractor for another company. So, we were asked to suggest the right course of action. I felt that my personal performance was decent in terms of my ability to come up with new points and also be clear in my communication. I would rate my performance in the GD as 4/5. However, I felt that the performance of the group was below average. The group members were not willing to discuss new concepts or ideas but were coming with a fixed mindset in terms of the conclusion. The entire GD had reached its conclusion in the start itself. My attempts to bring in new points or ideas were greeted coldly or were directly shot down by some of the group members. So, I would rate the group performance as 3/5.

I was the third candidate from my group to be interviewed. The panel consisted of two members. The first member was an old (in my view at least 60), highly experienced male professor and the second was a middle aged professor. Let's call the old professor P1 and the middle aged professor P2. P1 and P2 had also been the moderators in the GD. I already had a differentiating point even before being interviewed. I was the person with the A3 sized application form. My application form made me the famous, different guy in the eyes of the professors and also the staff assisting them. I was repeatedly asked about the size of my application form. Now I will cut to the chase and start with the interview experience.

P1 came to the waiting hall and called me inside. I went inside and I was waiting for P1 to enter so I could close the door. Meanwhile, P2 asked me to sit twice. I took my seat and then P1 entered so I got up to close the door. P2 was surprised by my actions. I was also surprised by my actions. I don't know why I was fixated on the door. I guess it was because I was really excited.

Me (Smiling): Good morning sir (looking towards P1) and Good morning sir (looking towards P2)

P1 and P2: Good morning!

P2: Please give me your folder and also give your application form to P1.

I quickly remove the folded A3 sized paper and give my folder to P2. I unfold my application form and immediately the size of the paper is pointed to me again. I smiled and told them the problem with the photo while printing the form on an A4 sized paper. P1 was looking at my application form while P2 was randomly opening my folder.

P2: Oh so you are from Hyderabad? Where do you stay in Hyderabad?

Me: Yes sir, I am from Hyderabad. I am currently staying in Secunderabad.

P2: How did you come here?

Me (Sensing danger because I did not prepare anything related to the train): Sir I traveled by train.

P2: Did you come here today or yesterday? Which train did you board, the overnight one or the morning one?

Me: I came here yesterday. I took the overnight train.

P2: Are you going back today? (He asked me this because I had taken my huge travel bag to the GD room because of instructions from the Admissions Team about personal property. This was also because I had accidentally knocked over a fellow candidate while taking the lift and P2 was in the lift while this happened)

Me: No, Sir I am leaving tomorrow.

P2 (grinning): Oh that's nice! Have fun in the afternoon and tomorrow

Me (Thinking is he being sarcastic or making fun of me?): I calmly smiled and thanked him.

P2: So, tell me the difference between Hyderabad and Secunderabad?

Me (I had seen a park or some garden before entering the hotel): Sir, Hyderabad and Secunderabad are twin cities. The only major difference is that Hyderabad has more parks than Secunderabad. Hyderabad also has more places of amusement.

P2 (Smiling): I wanted the answer in terms of the difference in culture.

Me: Sir, there is no difference in terms of the culture. Both cities have people with heart of gold.

P2: That I will agree with.

P1 (Jumps in suddenly): You are a Gujrati.

Me: Yes sir!

P1: What are you doing in Hyderabad? When did you shift there?

Me: Sir, I am born and brought up in Hyderabad. My grandparents shifted to Hyderabad.

P1: You must be having a business? I mean your grandfather must have started a business?

Me: No sir. My grandfather was a farmer. He had expertise in producing special variety of high quality grapes.

P1: Is your father a farmer too?

Me: No sir.

P2: What does your father do?

Me: I told them what my father does.

P2: Why didn't your father continue to be a farmer like your grandfather?

Me: Sir, the land on which my grandfather grew grapes was owned by some other person. By the time my father grew up, the zamindar had decided to sell the land. So, my father couldn't become a farmer. My father also did not have the expertise that my grandfather had.

P1 (Excitedly): But you are a Shah? Everything right from the application form to the profession of your family is weird!

Me: You could say that sir!

P1: Shahs are generally traders or businessmen, right?

Me (Seizing the moment): Yes sir. I hope to run a business in the future as a leader so I will change that about my family hopefully!

P2 and P1 both smile and they continue to the next round of questioning.

P1: You mentioned that you love participating in debates? Where do you participate and how often do you participate in them?

Me: I am a member of a club in my college. I participate in most of the debates conducted by them. I have also won a few debates. (I spoke about the wins)

P1: When was your last debate?

Me: Sir, my last debate was very recent. I was selected to represent my college at a debate conducted by the Britain Embassy. They conduct debates once a year across the country.

P1: What was the topic given?

Me (thinking): I did not speak for some time and then I apologized saying that I can't remember.

P1: That's all right if you can't remember. Did you win the debate?

Me: No sir! Unfortunately I couldn't win the debate.

P1: Why so?

Me: Sir, they had called up many teams but they selected only few teams.

P1: How many teams were called? How many were selected?

Me: They called 80 teams for the first round but selected only 4 teams for the semi-final round. They divided the 80 teams into 4 pools and selected 2 teams from each pool. They did not declare winners for each debate but they selected 2 teams even when they debated with each other.

P1: So, you didn't win? (Looks towards P2)

Me: Yes, sir!

P1: You mentioned that you worked as a Marketing Head of an NGO. What was your role and what did you do there?

Me (Explained what I did): Explained how I rose through the ranks as a volunteer and became the Marketing Head after a really good performance. Explained how I was responsible for engaging with companies and fund raising.

P1: Oh! How much money did you raise?

Me: I along with my team raised Rs 2 Lakh.

P1: So, how do you utilize this money?

Me: Every year, the team decides to take up a cause and we implement it for all the

government schools around our college. I told them about the past projects that we had undertaken and then I spoke about the projects undertaken using the money that my team raised. I also told them about other activities being undertaken by the team like Science Fair for the students.

P1: When did the NGO start? Who started it? Why did you specifically become the Marketing Head?

Me: I told them the date when it started and the seniors who started it. I told them that those seniors handpicked me for the role as the Marketing Head after observing my performance.

P1: Who keeps track of money?

Me: The volunteers who are students. This is voluntary work so interested students take part.

P1: What are the other activities that you do?

Me: I am the NSS team Lead in my college. I lead a team there and we do a lot of activities. My team has done the highest number of activities. Some of the best voluntary work in my college was undertaken by my team.

P1 (Smiles): says something inaudible

Me (Assuming it was a question about NSS): I start speaking about the activities that my team completed but I am interrupted before I can say something more.

P1 (A little Sternly): I asked if you read books?

Me: Yes, Sir!

P1: How often do you read them?

Me: Not as often as I would like to read them sir.

P1 (Smiles): When do you read them? Not as often meaning?

Me: I read them when I am travelling in the bus to college or before sleeping (I wanted to say even in my useless classes but somehow I maintained my composure). I meant that I am an enthusiastic reader but I don't get enough time to read.

P1 (With raised eyebrows): What are you reading currently?

Me: I started reading And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini recently. I told him the essence of what I had read until then.

P1: Have you read other books written by him? How many books has he written till now?

Me: I have read some of the other books written by him. I am aware of three books written by him.

P1: Tell me the names of the other books he has written?

Me: I told him about The Kite Runner. I couldn't remember the other book that I read, which was written by him. So, I told him the summary of The Kite Runner.

P1: Who is your favorite author?

Me: My favorite authors are Dan Brown and Jeffery Archer.

P1: Tell me the names of the books written by Dan Brown in the order in which you read them?

Me (Thinking that he is an avid reader): I took the names of The Digital Fortress, Angels and Demons and DaVinci Code. (My mind was recollecting the kiss in the movie Angels and Demons. I kind of had a crush on the actress so I was smiling while answering this)

P1: Tell me the summary of The Da Vinci Code?

Me (Looking at him with wide eyes because for some reason I had forgotten the story that too just now and also because I was snapped back to reality from my day dream): I told him a vague answer about saving the lives of people by breaking the Da Vinci code.

P1 sensed my discomfort I think and decided to spare my life. He did not press me on this answer.

P1: Did you develop this habit of reading just a few months ago or have been reading from before? Who helped you develop this habit?

Me (Thinking whether I should tell them about the person who helped me develop this wonderful habit of reading. But in the end my mind won the battle against the heart and I decided not to tell them about the person): No sir! I have this habit of reading from earlier. (Both P1 and P2 were expecting a detailed answer I think)

P1: What newspaper do you read?

Me: I read The Hindu.

P1: Do you read the online version or the hard copy?

Me: The hard copy.

P1: How often do you read it?

Me: Sir, I read it every day.

P1: Do you read the editorial page?

Me: Yes sir.

P1: Did you read yesterday's editorial?

Me: No sir! I did not have access to yesterday's newspaper.

P1: Tell me about day before yesterday's editorial?

Me (Did not remember things perfectly): I started speaking about an article I read about the upcoming presidential elections in Iran. I got interrupted here by P1.

P1: You know what the editorial means right? It's not an article. It's the opinion of the editor.

Me: yes sir! The article had the opinion about the election in Iran and how many candidates have registered for that. The previous presidents have also registered again for the elections.

P1: Ok! Do you read the business news?

Me: Yes sir!

P1: Tell me something about recent business articles?

Me: I spoke about the Flipkart investment round and the impending merger of Snapdeal with Flipkart.

P1 (Not looking satisfied): Tell me something about government policy which might affect the business world?

Me (Couldn't recollect any particular policy): I told them that the most recent policy change that's going to change the way business is done is GST.

P1: What is GST?

Me: Told them about GST. I ended by telling that it will create a single market across India.

P1: What do you mean by that single market? India is one only right?

Me: Sir by single market, I mean it will create a uniform tax structure across India. The taxes currently vary from state to state. GST will simplify this by ensuring uniform tax regime across India.

P1: How will it be administered?

Me: GST council has been appointed to look after the functioning. The GST council consists of members from the Central Finance Minister and ministers of finance from each state.

P1 looks satisfied and turns towards P2 who has been the silent knight all along. P1 asks P2 to continue.

P2: All my life I have met people from Electronics or Instrumentation but never from Electronics and Computer Engineering!

Me (Elated that I the first at something at least): I politely smile and tell him how this branch is present in only few colleges in India. It's a really good branch having the best of faculties from both electronics and Computers (My brain is ironically laughing at my statement.). I also tell them how this branch gives an opportunity for confused students to get the experience of the best of both world of electronics and computers (My mind is seriously laughing again).

P2: So even you were confused when you took this course?

Me (Thinking of how he can manipulate my answer if I say yes): No sir! I wanted to experience the world of hardware as well as software so I took up this branch.

P2 looks satisfied and opens my folder again to look at my engineering score cards. I am praying to god and chanting "Please no electronics. Please no transistors or circuits". God listens to me and luckily P2 asked me questions only from CS.

P2: Since you studied DWDM recently, tell me the three schemas from Data Warehousing and Data Mining?

Me: I told the names of the schemas named Star and Snowflakes. Couldn't remember the third ones name and was also confused about the technical concepts related to the schemas so I took a minute and told him that I was unable to recollect it at the moment despite studying it recently.

P2: Tell me the object oriented programming concepts?

Me: Told about Encapsulation, Abstraction, Polymorphism, Inheritance.

P2 interrupts me and asks me to explain Polymorphism in detail. I explain about the basic definition of polymorphism. Then I speak about runtime polymorphism and compile time. I speak about each case and explain the concepts of Overloading and Overriding.

P2: Asks me the use of Kernel? (After looking into my marks sheet and finding that I scored less in SPSL aka shell programming and scripting languages)

Me: I explain about kernel and how it is program that runs always. Then I speak about the resource management and hardware management by the OS and how OS passes instructions to Kernel which is responsible for final usage by the hardware.

P2: Tell me something about TCP/IP?

Me: Told the full forms and how they form the basis for safe communication using the Internet.

P2: Tell me about the layers in TCP and how many are there?

Me: I could remember that there were 4 layers and the names of only two initially.

P2 (Sternly): Tell me the names in the correct order?

Me: I told him that I will first tell the order using the OSI model. Then, I go on to TCP/IP model and I explained the difference between the OSI and TCP/IP model. I finally told him the order of the layers and their functionality. (In my mind I was thanking my friend Siddharth who had told all boys a really nice way to remember all the protocol layers. I was laughing at that joke)

P2 (Looks deeply into my mark sheets): What subject is Product Service and Design and why did you study that?

Me: Sir, it's an elective that I took up because I feel that as an Engineer, I have the ability to have incremental innovation. But I can't personally design or even think of making a new product. I wanted to get some perspective on that so I took up that subject.

P2: Do you know what disruptive innovation is?

Me: Yes sir! I gave the example of how start-ups come up with new ideas or differentiate themselves in terms of the business process and that is considered disruptive by the market generally.

P2: How was your academic performance in college?

Me: I told him how I performed to the best of my ability despite juggling so many things. I also told him that I have always been in the top 5-10% of my batch of 130 students. I ended by telling him that I had also topped the first year of my college.

P2 (Looks into my marks sheet again): What did you study in Project Management and Structured Finance?

Me: I start off by telling him that it was an elective that I chose. Before I could respond he interrupts me and asks me to tell the difference between PERT and CPM.

Me: I explain the concept of PERT and CPM and tell him how CPM helps determine the worst case scenario in terms of the path or the worst possible time frame in which the project will be completed.

P2: Which one among PERT and CPM is probabilistic?

Me: I answer PERT with a confused facial expression.

P2 (cooly): Are you sure? You seem to be confused! It's Ok, I am done!

P2 looks to P1 and they decide that they are done with my interview and they ask me to leave.

Me: Thank you so much for your time and the opportunity!

Interview and WAT Experience–7

Profile- Profile: GEM, CAT: 98.90, 10th: 94.90, 12th: 87.33, Grad- 62.1

The case discussion was about polio vaccine. There were 7 of us involved in the discussion. 3 of us spoke very well and the other 4 (including me) did a decent job. Thankfully, it was no fish market.

Then came the time for the interview.

There were two panel members P1 and P2.

P1- So XX, you are from Maharashtra. Why is it called 'Maharashtra'?

Me- No idea sir. The literal translation is 'a great state'. Maybe we wanted to call ourselves great (Trying to be funny). They did not seem impressed.

P2- So tell us about yourself.

Me- Gave the practiced answer. Spoke about my interest in stand up comedy.

P2- Can you perform something for us?

I felt this was my chance to set the tone. I performed a bit for about a minute which they seemed to enjoy.

P2- How did you develop an interest in stand up comedy?

Me- I started doing some mimicry in school and people used to like it. That's how it all started. Spoke about how IIT Gandhinagar gave me many opportunities and platforms to perform.

P2- Do you follow sport?

Me- Yes sir, I do. (I wanted to build upon the momentum. So why the hell would I say 'no' even though I follow just cricket and not much of any other sport :p)

Luckily, he asked about cricket itself.

P2- Which trophy did India win recently in cricket?

Me- Sir, the Nidahas Trophy.

P2- What does 'Nidahas' mean?

Me- Sir, it means 'freedom'. Spoke a bit about why the tournament was held.

P2- How many teams are there in IPL this year?

Me- Eight teams.

P2- Which two teams have come back and which two did they replace?

Another easy question. After I answered this, he asked what business model would Pune warriors and Gujarat Lions follow if they were a part of the IPL for just two years?

Me- Sorry I don't know.

Now it was P1's turn. He went through my file and opened my college grade sheet. That was the last thing I wanted as I was feeling good about this interview till now.

P1- You studied EM waves in your third year. What is the speed of EM waves?

Me- It's the speed of light.

P1- So light is a wave?

Me- No sir, it has a dual nature. Both particle and wave.

P1- Can you tell me about an experiment which you must have definitely read about which involved oil and electrons.

I could remember that he was talking about the oil drop experiment which I had studied in class 12. Although I could not remember the name of the scientist.

Me- Sir, this experiment was used to measure the charge of the electron.

P1- Tell me about the equation $e=hf$.

Me- Answered correctly.

P1- Can you tell me other equations related to energy.

I don't know why but I told him about the energy of orbitals in Bohr's model.

P1- Why is there a negative sign to it?

I said something about energy release when energy state drops. He seemed satisfied.

P1- Tell me difference between resistance and impedance?

Me- Answered correctly.

He then asked me about the RLC circuit and its components.

I started talking about the series RLC circuit. He said draw some other circuits as well which I could not.

P1- Okay leave it, why is $E=mc^2$ and not $\frac{1}{2} mc^2$ as K.E equals $\frac{1}{2} mv^2$ squared?

I should have said that $\frac{1}{2} mv^2$ is simply Newtonian mechanics but I gave a silly answer that maybe it has some other energy in addition to the kinetic energy.

P2 was meanwhile eating some cashews and asked, "Why do you think Maharashtrians don't migrate much to other states but people from other states go to Maharashtra?"

I spoke about the opportunities available there and about the mentality of people of Maharashtra. He seemed to be satisfied.

P2- Can you tell me the similarities between the election process of Russia and China?

I answered something partially but he did not quite agree. In the end I said, "Sorry sir, I am not fully aware about the process". I had spoken more generally on Putin and Xi Jinping.

That was it. Then they offered me toffee. I took one and left saying thank you.

Interview and WAT Experience—8

IIM SHILLONG INTERVIEW

Venue: Mantra Amaltas, Delhi.

Two male professors- P1, P2

P1: (Taking my files and asking me to sit)

So, you've mentioned in your form that one of your weaknesses is that you over contemplate on things. Tell me more about it.

Sir I am constantly trying to work upon that but a number of times I do end up losing my energy and time in thinking about the possibilities rather than just taking a step back and let things take their natural course. I think I have gotten a lot better in the recent times.

Hmm. Tell me something about yourself, your family, your interests.

I started very smartly, cutting short all crap about schooling, college, came straight to my hobbies. Told them about poetry and painting. Meanwhile P2 was going through my poems.

They didn't give a cue to stop so I went on to describe about the professional freelancing that I've done. The platforms I've written for and how it connected my dots towards pursuing an MBA.

P1: So where do you see yourself after 10 years from now?

Sir honestly, I haven't even decided what specialisation I'll be choosing in my MBA so the only things that I can say about myself in 10 years is that I want to see me staying loyal to

my work and waking up every day with the confidence that I'm doing what my heart desires.

P1: So what according to you are the challenges that women face in getting to mid-level management positions?

(This was a rather personal question for me, so I answered it purely from my personal perspective)

First of all, I think the biggest challenge women face is being accepted into those kinds of roles. We are not very used to seeing women in top-managerial positions but thankfully it's changing and we have top management figures like Mrs. Indira Nooyi, Merissa Mayor and many more women in the arena. Still the field has to be levelled more.

Next challenge is that women are expected to deliver a lot in terms of societal and family issues. I'm not ranting but especially if one comes from a conservative background it's even difficult to sustain in the corporate sector. There is greater pressure from the society to deliver your capabilities within an acceptable framework of behaviour or morals.

Taking care of the family and managing a job along side is really challenging so it's quite expected of the men to support women in making this imbalance correct.

P1: What kind of articles do you read?

Mostly editorials and opinionated articles.

P1: Do you know about the telecom industry? Some important news there.

I'm not very well read there, but by far the most significant happening in the telecom industry was Reliance Jio taking up on a number of its competitors by launching the 4G network. Other companies were forced to launch similar 4G plans because of that.

P1: Do you know about Aircel?

Sir Aircel was also suffering losses and was facing a tough competition because of the Jio factor.

P1: No, Aircel went bankrupt!

Sorry sir I didn't know that.

P1: What do you mean by a Secular state?

Told.

P1: Name another country in Southern Asia other India that's secular?

Said Australia.

P1: I'm asking Asian?

I said sorry I heard only Southern, then took a moment to think:

Well, this is what was going in my mind at that point:

Nepal. (Majorly Buddhist)

Sri Lanka. (Buddhist again)

Myanmar (Surely not secular I thought, because of the Rohingya Crisis)

Indonesia (Muslim Nation)

Bangladesh (Muslim Nation)

Pakistan (Muslim Nation)

Finally I gave up and said:

Sorry Sir, can't think of one.

(Well internet tells that these countries are officially secular: Nepal, Malaysia, Singapore and many more; so basically I screwed up big time here)

P1: What is the difference between Directive Principles and Fundamental Rights?
Told.

P1: When can our fundamental rights be taken away?
In the case of an emergency of national level.

P1: Which country recently had an emergency going on?
I told about the recent Maldives emergency, but he was expecting Sri Lanka as the answer.
He later told me about the Sri Lankan Emergency.

P2 couldn't locate my B.Tech marksheets for the 'different subjects that I'd studied', so asked me to assist on that. I took the file and was literally praying to God for him to not get into details.

He asked me about my favourite subjects. I said DBMS and Data Structures.

P2: What are Data Structures?
Answered.

P2: What is a Linked List?
Answered.

P2: What other subject do you like?
I said DBMS.

P2: What is DBMS?
Told.

P2: Can you create a real database?
I started with my basics but he was expecting deeper answers. I said I've been out of practice there.

P2: So, tell me whether you know about Rise and Fall?

Didn't know about it.

P2: What do you know about Software Testing?

Told.

P2: What are different types of testing?

Told.

P2: What is Product Life Cycle?

Answered and explained with a diagram.

P1: Your 10th and 12th marks are very good. Then there's a dip in graduation marks. Is it because of the co-curriculars or because of the university marking policy?

Sir it is not because of my extra-curricular activities but mostly because of the strict marking policy of the University. Nevertheless, I have tried to maintain a position in the top three students in my class ever since the start.

P2: By the way what do people call you? Fatima or Firdous?

(I started laughing on the inside at this because I had got questions on my name in every single interview I gave.)

So, I told them I've been called both and either works. But my surname is Rizvi which my parents forgot to get mentioned during my school time. So, I'm stuck with a middle name as a sir name!

So, XX, we're done. You were the last one in the panel.

At the end when I was getting up **P1** candidly said:

You seem to be a great fan of Rumi. You've quoted a lot of his poetry in your paintings.

Have you read the book of compilation of Rumi's poetry?

I said I haven't read the book but I read his poetry from the internet. At this I grabbed the opportunity and recited my favourite quote of Rumi 'I saw many humans on whom there were no clothes. I saw many clothes in which there were no humans!'

I asked them if he'd like to read my poetry to which he said he already read it while I was talking to the other professor.

They asked me to take a toffee.

I took one.

P2: Well xx, you can take all since you were the last one!

Interview and WAT Experience–9

IIM Shilong Interview

Date : 06.02.19

Location : Mantra Amaltas, New Delhi

Slot : Morning

Duration of the Interview - About 15 minutes

First Day of Interviews for 2019–2021 batch

First Slot of the First Day

First Panel of the First Slot of the First day

First Candidate of the First Panel of the First Slot of the First Day

I think I have become the so called “Napoleon's ‘Un’lucky General” or the other candidates’ “FALL_GUY”

CD- based on the course of action for a company’s management so as to remain in the same market or diversify into another (WITH A LOT OF OTHER CONSTRUCTS)

CD went bad for all, it was a proper fish-market scenario, with everyone trying to scream at the top of his/her voice, with no one listening to nobody.

Couldn’t even conclude the CD. But I was diligent enough to put 3–4 intellectual points on the table and make my presence felt, otherwise I was the most silent guy in the room (Which I am usually not)

First interview of the season

Both for me and for the institute

2 Panelists both proper academicians:

to be precise Mr. Bidyut Gogoi and Mr Atul Mehta (I just checked IIM Shillong website for their faculty)

Lets call them BG and AM

BG came out and called my name, went inside waited for him to sit and then got seated

BG asked for my file, opened and gave it to him, telling him about the segregation ;-)

BG- How are you doing today.

Me- I am great sir, how about you?

AM- Are you from Delhi itself?

Me - Sir I belong to Faridabad (Delhi NCR)

The Interview started with my workex

AM- Tell us what do you do at Ernst and Young?

Me- Started to elaborate, talked about a couple of projects

AM- Tell me a recent report that you have sent out.

Me- Told, elaborated upon the same

AM- So do you have economics background?

(My work profile revolves around economics, and he is a PhD in Economics which led to this question)

Me- No sir, I have a background in Applied Psychology, (threw across some random bullshit with this answer, about the background and some about how I got into psychology)

AM - Coming to extracurriculars, you debate?

Me- Yes sir, I used to debate a lot in my college and I have won some university level competitions, I am also into swimming, I have won a silver in the district level swimming competition in 2017 (elaborated upon them)

I added, Sir I also have a bit of a unique co-curriculars, I have had research papers published and I also have a copyright, started to elaborate upon them and they were patient enough to listen.

BG- Got into the intricacies of the research, asked some questions around Hypothesis, types of hypothesis, and research methodology, which I answered, but then things got serious, he asked about the research models.

I didn't get the last part of the question.

Not after One clarification

Neither after two clarifications

I thought if I got a heart attack in the middle of the interview what would happen, I even started to think about the hospitals nearby, but I understood somewhat about what he is trying to ask, after the third round of the clarifications

Referring to the research models what he was trying to ask was the theories of General Psychology

Which I started on a high note but lost focus around what I was saying after a couple of minutes of speaking.

I goofed it up completely, but I was making some sense, but finally I chose to give up on that question, as it had been 5 years since I had read that particular text, he was accommodating enough to understand and let go.

AM pitched in again, asking the applications of my degree in the work I currently do?

Told a bit about the implication of Research in my job and also in MBA, smoothly integrating the answer to another coming question.

This last part could have been better, should have told applications of Psychology in HR (my previous roles), but bygones are bygones.

BG- Asked me five learnings from my corporate experience.

Me- started to remember an answer I had written on quora:

Anuj Suneja's answer to What did you learn in 2017?

was able to list 4 of them and then gave upon my bad memory.

BG asked AM if he has any other questions, AM asked for the file, glanced through it for about 1 1/2 minutes,

Frankly speaking I was about to die from the awkwardness and silence in the room but I didn't.

AM then said I am done, you are good to go

Now did he mean Good to go to IIM Shillong or Good to get out and go home that I will get to know somewhere in mid-April.

This was followed by the famous toffee conundrum, but this time the toffee was a Parle Orange Bite

Hope this helps you in your interview experience.

Verdict: Waitlist 387

Interview and WAT Experience–10

Date: 19 Feb 2020 (Afternoon Slot), Mumbai

I was 3rd in my group. I had a short conversation with the aspirants of the group before the case discussion. Most of them had calls from BLACKI and they were done with some of their interviews.

Panel: Male in mid-50s and Female in mid-40s. For the sake of convenience let's call them M and F respectively. Later, the same moderators took the interview.

Case Discussion: Production Team used Finance Team's system for an urgent delivery over the weekend. They did not ask them before taking these systems. As they were tired, they did not put these systems back. Due to which, the Finance Team was unable to work for the next day. As a mediator, what will you do now?

(We were 9 aspirants in the group. I was the second person to speak in the discussion. I gave 3–4 points in it. Later suggested making a standard protocol if such a situation occurs again. Overall, the CD was decent. Everyone contributed equally. No fish market situation.)

Interview

M: Tell us something about yourself.

Me: Told a practiced answer.

M: Tell us more about the startup and your contribution.

Me: Explained the working model of startup and how a credit system works. Later, shared my individual contribution.

M: How do you recover the loans from a student?

Me: Explained the recovery model in detail.

M: How much is the NPA?

Me: 5%

M: Isn't that huge?

Me: No, Sir. Considering the max amount of individual loan disbursed and the market NPA, it's relatively less.

M: NPA for SBI?

Me: around 10 %.

M: So you left your job, why?

Me: As the job was quite demanding. Being a startup, we had to work even on weekends. I could not prepare for the MBA entrance exams.

F: You are already a manager, why do you want to do an MBA?

Me: Told the practiced answer. (A holistic view, peer to peer learning, academical interest, etc.)

F: What do you do apart from studying now?

Me: Told them about the NGO for which I worked. (They were not that satisfied with my answer).

F: So, you are an Electronics Engg, tell me how does a microwave work?

Me: I am unable to recollect this. It's been a long time I have touched this subject.

F: Tell us the working of a Satellite

Me: Made the basic blocks of satellite communication and explained the components.

F: How do AC works?

Me: Started explaining but was stopped in the middle.

F: What is the industry system of AC named?

Me: HVAC. Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning.

F: We are done here. Do you have any questions for us?

Me: No, Ma'am.

M: Take chocolates from the bowl.

Me: Thanks

The overall experience was good. No stress interview. The interviewers were calmly listening.

I still had time for my train, so I waited until everyone's interview was done. We all had a similar sort of interviews. Everyone was happy after the interview.

Result: Waitlisted

Interview and WAT Experience–11

Date: 07/03/2019

Venue: Monarch Luxor Hotel, Bangalore

Profile:

GEM.

X - 95.6%(Tamilnadu Board)

XII - 92%(Tamilnadu Board)

UG - 67.4% (B.Tech.(IT) from PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore)

Work Experience - 5 months, 19 days at Deloitte Consulting as on January 31, 2019.

CAT 2018 - 99.71 percentile (99.29|100|87.45)

Case Discussion(CD):

The case was an ethical dilemma about whether a person can share a software he uses as a part of his job to his friend who will benefit by using the software.

My performance in CD was average. It lasted ten minutes. It was evaluated by a two-member panel. I pitched in two times and made valuable points.

Personal Interview(PI):

I was allotted the second panel. The CD and the PI had the same panelists - two male professors(M1 and M2) with one of them(M2) being the Chairperson of Admissions. I was the sixth one in my panel. For the first time, I got a sequence number other than one and two. M1 called me in and M2 asked me to sit down.

The following are the questions asked:

1. Three basic questions about work experience.
2. OPEC.
3. Countries part of it and their role.
4. Impact of OPEC's actions in India.
5. How is Inflation calculated.
6. South China sea dispute.
7. Countries involved in the South China sea dispute and why.
8. Nirav Modi's business and what did he do.
9. Letters of Understanding and Letters of Credit.
10. Chairman of Tata Sons.
11. Chairman before Ratan Tata.
12. Group Cyrus Mistry belongs to.
13. Relation between Tata Sons and Shapoor Pallonji Group.
14. Noel Tata.
15. CEO of Infosys.
16. Union Aviation Minister.
17. Ruling party of Rajasthan and the Chief Minister.
18. Why Ashok Gehlot over Sachin Pilot.
19. About Derek O'Brien.
20. Functions of MODEM and why the name.
21. Dialup connections and the speed.
22. Difference between Microprocessor and Microcontroller.
23. 6-sigma and the number of defects allowed in it.
24. 3-sigma and the number of defects allowed in it.
25. Example of 6-sigma in India.
26. Example of 6-sigma outside India.
27. Normal forms and why normalisation.
28. Which normal form gives the maximum speed.
29. Entity.
30. From when do you follow Cricket.
31. Target in the famous NatWest Trophy match between India and England.
32. What was the controversy in the same match.
33. Did Ganguly face any charge for it.
34. The first IPL match.
35. Who scored the maximum runs in that match and how many.

It was a comprehensive interview with questions from almost all fields. I was able to answer 70% of the questions only.

Personal Rating: CD - 10/20 and PI - 35/50.

Verdict: Rejected.

Interview and WAT Experience—12

lim shillong experience

It was the perfect interview GD

GD was a case study ,relatively simple and a little dull(something about a new company hiring all talents from the existing ones)

I was the last one in my panel,however i was called in just an hour

Two panelists Male and Female

M looked at my file, browsing it carefully and asked about -what is operating system? And saw my mark sheets and asked if i knew about Linear programming

I honestly told them that its been two years and I only remember software engineering(I didn't , was bluffing)

F asked about the cocomo model and black box(which miraculously I knew).

M asked about Extra curricular activities

Told them about my toastmaster club and how I wanted to work with TEDx in Shillong.

They asked me about my social entrepreneurship plan

I answered convincingly. They looked impressed because I talked in length about IIM Shillong's special courses and how IIM Shillong is the perfect launchpad.

Next M asked what motivated me. I told them that People did, how I saw a guy wasting paneer tikka in the lobby while there were children outside selling pens in this heat, empty stomach.

(Got carried away and spent at least 5 minutes)

F asked about politics and elections. My letter to the editor was published in the newspaper today, so talked about it(made a joke about how modesty is not exactly what I am known for) and it featured Irom.

So F asked me about Irom, and i talked passionately about her struggle.

At one point i was actually asking them- hasn't she done enough? How much do you want her to suffer?

They didn't interrupt and I just stopped.

After that they asked me to talk about my work, asked about my CSR activities (Which i was happy to talk about).

F asked me to take a candy, in fact she said take them all if you want.

I thanked her and said i would give them to the kids at the traffic signal(which i just did).

She replied- i know you would, that's why asked you to take them.

I asked both of them why Shillong doesn't have many female students. Why is it he-long?

She laughed and said. We are trying our best.

Wished me all the best.

It was a 10 minute long interview,the shortest for my panel.

Interview and WAT Experience–13

Profile: 9/9/7 GEM, BITS Pilani, Currently, working in a consulting firm (though work ex marks were not counted in terms of composite scores)

CAT: 98.78%ile

Due to the pandemic, the case study round was cancelled and PI was conducted online through ZOOM. There were two panellists, one male and one female. I will address them as M and F respectively in subsequent description. Would address myself as S.

Interview starts with greetings from both sides. I was asked to display my Aadhar in the beginning itself for verification.

F : Introduce yourself.

S: Gave a well rehearsed answer.

F: Why management?

S : Told my side of story that I explored core engineering jobs through internships and wanted to switch to management because I did a consulting internship in 4th year and liked it more than the core internships. Hence I decided to join a consulting firm and switch to consulting.

F: Which consulting firms I would like to work for in future?

S: MBB, ATK etc.

F: Why?

S: Explained that I would like to work for a firm which is in the management consulting domain as I would like to solve problems from multiple industries to widen my horizon and increase the depth of knowledge on different sectors.

F: Explain your current work profile.

S: Explained.

In the meantime M was silent and was either going through my certificates or was searching for something really fishy to ask questions on.

M: Coming to why you are switching, don't you think if you are bored of consulting you will leave it as you have left core?

S: Told him that I was not bored of core particularly. I was inclined more towards this domain than core. Repeated the point that I did multiple internships to figure this out.

Then came the academic questions which revolved mainly around my undergrad. Questions were fairly straightforward. I guess none of the panelists were remotely close to my undergrads and hence there was no roasting business here.

F: Suggestions on how work will continue in the new world.

S: Explained that businesses would be affected. Service businesses can continue online for now, but would be difficult to maintain in future. Manufacturing would take massive hit as demands would reduce drastically. Pharma would get a boost as demands for both medicines and vaccines would be higher and more and more investors would like to pump their money in these to get maximum benefits.

I gave example of different businesses when the panelists asked me which businesses would be affected the most and which would thrive under the current scenario.

And with this the interview got over with final few words from the panelists. All in all it was a 20–25 min interview. The process was smooth and the panel was friendly for most parts of the interview.

Verdict: STRAIGHT CONVERT!

Interview and WAT Experience–14

03/03/2020

Radisson Blu,Dwarka

1:45 pm

Oh Damn neat.....If it is your day ,destiny always finds some way to help you out.....here is the excerpt:

X:93

XII:95.6

Grad:81.33(Science Grad)

Just before my interview the panel took a tea break ,I was called after that,the clock read 5:00 pm

P1: A male prof in late 40's , **P2:** A beautiful female prof in early 30's

P2 opens the door asks me to get in

P1 asks for my file...I hand it over to him

P2: One good and bad thing about Gorakhpur?

Me: Answered

P2: This question was perhaps the game changer.. xx, who is Mohd Yunus?

Me: Smiled and answered

P2: seemed impressed, An Indian origin person won a noble for Eco who was he?

Me: Answered

P2: What news have you studied?

Me: Corona Virus,US-Afghan Deal,Indian women's cricket team in T-20 world cup

P2: Name 4 women cricketer?

Me: Answered

P2: What is the reason of difference between male and female cricket in India

Me: Answered

P1: would look straight into the file and would shake his head whenever he would find my answer ok

P2: If Devesh is made a chief minister for a day?What will he do?

Me: Answered

P2: What is our national sport?(Another game changer)

Me: We don't have one maa'm

P2 : what is the national flower?

Me: answered

P2: Changes which you would bring in CAA?

Me: Answered

P1: He was convinced most of the times just asked about my certificates, One of my positive qualities and one negative

Interview and WAT Experience–15

Date: 11 April 2017

Venue: Hotel J.P. Celestial Fortune Park, Bangalore

Time: 8:30 AM

CAT Score: 98 percentile

I reached the hotel at 8 AM. Had a scare on the way - the cab I was travelling with met with an accident, on the road just opposite to the hotel. Thankfully, we were near our destination and this did not cause a delay.

I entered a room where other candidates were sitting for document verification. There was an admissions official who was marking attendance, verifying identity and interview call letter. At exactly 8:30 am, he stopped verifying the documents and sent a list of present candidates to the group of panellists for Case Discussion (CD) group formation. We were asked to have refreshments and wait in the room until called for CD.

3 students arrived post 8:30 am and they got a hard time from the admissions official in front of all other candidates. All other candidates who were in time were looking at each other and probably thinking - "Phew! Thank god I came early". Because I was thinking the same - guess I should thank my fauji upbringing. And the interview call letter did mention - "Doors will be closed at 8:30 am". So, if you are going for a B-School interview, plan ahead and be punctual.

At around 8:50 am, candidates' names were called out by their respective panel representatives and we were asked to follow the representative to the CD room. Everything was very organised and we were asked to follow the sequence while entering the room and taking our seats.

Case Discussion (CD)

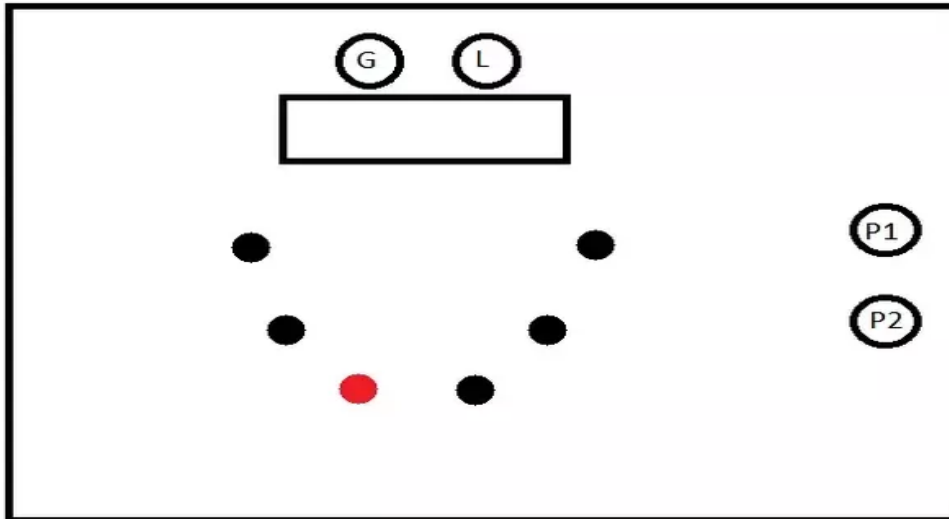
There were 4 professors in the interview room, the most I have seen in any B-School interviews so far.

G - Gentleman (In early 30s) Professor

L - Lady (In 40s) Professor

P1 and P2 - Professors (Both in 50s) (Reading newspaper when we entered, they were just observing)

The room layout looked something like this (Candidate seated in a semi-circle and I'm the red dot):



Instructions

We were asked to take our seats and put the number tags on our chest. I was number 4, from right. G asked us to take out the printouts of the IIM Shillong interview form and one original ID proof. Our identities were verified again and G was closely verifying the photograph in the ID with the interview form and the candidates face. Then G walked us through the CD process and the total time for CD was 13 (2+10+1) minutes. 2 minutes to read and understand the case, 10 minutes for discussion and 1 minute to conclude the discussion. A bell was used for notifying the candidates at 0th minute, 2nd minute, 10th minute and the 13th minute. The case sheet was handed out to us and we were asked to use the same for writing.

The CD experiences

The case given was an ethics/ human resource management situation. I read the case quickly and wrote down the details. I was a little nervous but the moment bell rang, I initiated the discussion and sought the attention of the group to analyse the case from a stakeholder perspective (I love stakeholder analysis) and began listing the stakeholders with their respective interests in the situation. Other candidates added some stakeholders I missed out on. Then as a group we listed down the decision makers and the options available to us. I added couple of points in between and clarified another candidate's confusion in the discussion.

By this time, I was confident as most candidates were addressing me, rather than addressing the whole group (which is a mistake - ALWAYS address the group and each and every participant, as everyone is equally important in a group, not just the people who talk more or take initiative). I was very happy about the group as all of us were very cordial and supportive of each other. Cheers to that! (My GD group in XLRI interview was horrible and it was a total nuisance).

Before we could realise, 10 minutes had passed by and the bell rang. It was our cue to conclude. I urged the group to quickly summarise all options and make a decision. We quickly discussed and agreed to a common solution. I requested everyone to let no. 5

summarise our decision and conclude the CD. But the moment he started, the bell rang and G ended the CD formally and asked to wait outside for PI.

Personal Interview (PI)

No. 5 and 6 were sent to other panels and Nos 1–4 were to interview with the same CD panel. I was happy that I would be interviewing with the same panel, as my GD had gone well and the first impression was good. But on the other hand I was last, which does not always go in one's favour.

The wait outside was good as I was talking to other candidates who were yet to go for their PI. I had met some people from previous interviews and we were chatting about this being our last interview (most of us were interviewing for B-Schools from early Feb) and what plans everyone had after the interview.

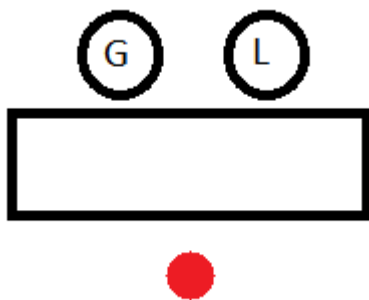
Meanwhile, the 3 guys from panel got done with their interviews and from their experience we got to know that the panel is very professional and cordial. That meant a non-stress interview.

G walked till the door and called me inside.

I entered the room, the arrangement was something like this (Again the red dot is me):

G - Gentleman (In early 30s) - Professor

L - Lady (Most probably in 40s) – Professor



Entered and wished L and waited for G to take his seat then wished him too.

G - Please have a seat Nikhil. Pass me your folder. (Gave him my folder containing the certificates)

Me - Thank you sir.

L - So Nikhil, I see you work for Pfizer. Can you tell us about your organisation and what kind of work you do at Pfizer?

Me - Talked about my manufacturing plant, career, different roles and projects which I took up and about my current portfolios and responsibilities. (I cannot go into details here for confidentiality reasons)

L - Okay. How big is Pfizer in India?

Me - I spoke about the different manufacturing plants across various locations, the product range and annual turnover and market share of Pfizer in India. (Again, can't go into details)

L - Okay, good. Does Pfizer focus on research? How essential is research to Pfizer?

Me - I talked about the organisation structure and how research is one important pillar. Talked a little about history of drugs invented at Pfizer and recent breakthroughs.

Meanwhile G was going through my certificates thoroughly.

L was very cool and was smiling throughout, ensuring I was comfortable.

L - Okay, do you know about the recent on-goings in India and around the world? Do you follow current affairs?

Me - Yes, ma'am. I read the newspaper everyday and try to be follow important national issues. I also try and follow international to news to some extent.

L - Okay, what are your views on China? What do you think China is trying to do?

Me - Ma'am, there have been some grave conflicts with China, right from the Sino-Indian war in 1962, boundary and regional conflict in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin. Recently, China blocked India's bid to become a member of NSG and China raised objection to Dalai Lama's visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which it claims to be a disputed territory. But ma'am, if we keep all this aside there is great trade potential with China. (I quoted some figures). I think we should try and use diplomacy with China and focus on business potential.

L - No, what is China trying to do in South-east Asia? What are they doing in Sri-Lanka?

Me - (I then understood the context of the question - it was geo-political) Okay, ma'am. Geo-politically China is trying to counter India from all directions. It has obtained the rights of a port in Sri Lanka and is developing it for trade related matters. India too is in talks with Sri Lanka for obtaining the permit of a sea port. In the north west, China is building the CPEC and developing the Gwadar Port in Pakistan. India too is developing the Chabahar port in Iran. China claims parts of Leh and Arunachal Pradesh as its own territory and calls its South Tibet. Further, China is creating artificial islands in South China Sea and claiming the sea at its own waters. Military installations are coming up at those islands which has increased the tension in South East Asia.

L - Good, see... now you got it. (Smiling)

L - What do you think India is doing? Why is our PM travelling often to foreign countries?

Me - Ma'am it's unprecedented diplomacy. Since the 70s India was seen as a Soviet/Russian ally. Our diplomatic reach in Europe and the west was minimal. Since the new government has taken charge, our PM has taken several trips to western, European and gulf countries. In the west, US is very important to India as India has been vying for a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. USA is very important to India for a gaining membership in the NSG. Many recent visits to countries like France, Germany and England were crucial to gain the confidence of NSG members for India's successful entry.

The new government's policy in South East Asia is also very important. India is helping Afghanistan grow. We recently gifted them their parliament building and 4 helicopters. Afghan forces are trained by the Indian Armed Forces too. Modi tried to strike a friendship with Pakistan too, by inviting Nawaz Sharif to his oath taking ceremony and by an impromptu visit to Lahore on his birthday. However, due to the weakness of the Pakistani PMs control and the interference of Pakistani Army, those efforts seem to be failing. India has a look east policy too, where it is helping neighbours like Myanmar and Vietnam and has struck strategic partnership with these nations.

Further questions we're on academics, my undergrad subject, chemical engineering, which I can't recollect at the moment.

Was offered a toffee in the end :)

Verdict: Got an admission offer in the very first list.

Interview and WAT Experience–16

IIM SHILLONG GD/PI

PRAVEEN KUMAR

10/12/GRAD(Statistics) - 95/87/72

WORK EX- 8 MONTHS (T. I. M. E. INSTITUTE VARANASI)

PLACE GD/PI - NEW DELHI

DATE - 15/02/2019

1. VERIFICATION OF DOCUMENTS (8.10 am - 9.20 am)

All the students were asked to report by 8 am. Soon after those registrations started. We had to present the following documents as asked in the interview call letter.

- 1) Cat scorecard /cat admit card
- 2) interview call letter
- 3) pre-interview form
- 4) original photo id

Then we were briefed about the entire process as the number of panelists and students in each of them. 9- 10 students were grouped in one and each panel consisted of 2 professors for the personal interview. This process took approximately an hour. At 9.15 panelists

came in and called out the names of each student so that students can join their respective groups one by one.

2. GROUP DISCUSSION (9.45am - 10.10 am)

At 9.30 I was in a room along with 8 other students for Group discussion. We were asked to sit tag wise(each one was assigned a tag from 1 to 9). We had a case study before us which had to be done in 13 minutes(3+10). So each of us was given a sheet of paper with a case printed. We had 3 minutes to read and analyse and next 10 minutes to discuss it at length.

The case before us: -

A driver with 15-year work experience and good behaviour was promoted as a personal driver of Managing director of a large public sector company. On a day, after a long tiring trip, he took the vehicle to his own house rather than parking it at the office, which was against office norms. On that very day, he killed an 8-year-old girl who was crossing road hastily. The driver tried to save that girl but it all happened so quickly, that he could not save her. He was taken to custody but was later released from the law of land due to lack of enough evidence. Now you are managing director of the company. Decide what course of action you would take keeping that fact that taking office vehicle to home was against companies rules and regulations?

After the group discussion, all of us were asked to wait while the personal interview would take place one by one.

3. PERSONAL INTERVIEW (11.45am - 12.10 pm)

At 11.45 after waiting for a good one and a half hour, I was called in for an interview.

There was 2 panellist as mentioned before. A professor aged around 35 (Y1) and other around 55 (O2). As I went inside, I was asked to sit in.

Y1: How are you,xx?

Me: I am good sir.

Y1: You are from Banaras Hindu University. What it's called in Hindi?

Me: Sir, In Hindi, it's Kashi Hindu Viswavidyalaya

Y1: What is the difference between Kashi and Banaras?

Me: Sir, Kashi is an old name that means "city of light" and this word is mentioned in Rig Veda. While Banaras is also an old name. The new name is Varanasi. As Britishers found it difficult to pronounce Varanasi, they used Banaras.

Y1: Do you follow recent news? What sort of news do you keep an eye on?

Me: Yes Sir, I do follow national and international news and I am well aware of current affairs. I also sometimes follow regional news.

Y1: Tell me something that happened recently.

Me: Talked about India withdrawing MFN (Most favoured nation) from Pakistan. Talked about government steps on this issue.

Y1: During the last terror attack, there were talks about India withdrawing MFN status from Pakistan but didn't take it. What's your say in it?

Me: India believes in negotiations and not against direct attack. We believe that terror attacks happen because of a few terrorist organization and we should take action against them rather than taking action against Pakistan. India thus giving one more chance to Pakistan did not take this step although our leaders did discuss this option.

O2 was listening all this very carefully without any questions. It was difficult to analyze what he was thinking and how he was rating my performance.

Y1: Heard anything about the indigo issue that's currently in the news

Me: No Sir, I am not aware of this issue. (Indigo is currently facing a shortage of pilots and thus have to cancel many flights).

Y1: Karnataka is in news recently. Why?

Me: Could not tell (horse trading of MLA's by BJP while INC and JDU(secular) tries to form the government.

Y1: Major political parties in karnataka?

Me: Karnataka is represented by three major political parties, the Indian National Congress, the Janata Dal (Secular) and the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Y1: Major political parties in TN?

Me: Major parties are AIADMK and DMK.

Y1: what is AIADMK?

Me: could partially answer (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam)

Y1: Name politicians that died in the last 2 years in TN and difference between them.

Me: M. Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa

Y1: Difference between regional and national parties and follow up questions of whether this party is national or regional. (BSP, Trinamool Congress, AIDMK)

Me: Partially answer (Correct answer Praveen Kumar (प्रवीण कुमार)'s answer to What are the major differences between a national and a regional political party?)

Y1: what is the difference between NDA and UPA?

Me: The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is a center-right coalition of political parties in India. At the time of its formation in 1998, it was led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and had thirteen constituent parties like Samata Party, the Shiromani Akali Dal, the Shiv Sena in addition to the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam and the Biju Janata Dal.

The United Progressive Alliance (UPA) is a coalition of center-left political parties in India formed after the 2004 general election. few parties are Rashtriya Janata Dal and DMK.

Y1: what it consists of?

Me: mentioned a few (correct answer is given above)

Y1: why Shillong is famous apart from being a hill station?

Me: Shillong is famous for bamboo handicrafts. it is known as Scotland of east and is also famous for football clubs. (I knew a lot more about this place but was point blank at that time. This is an important question and I would advise preparing well for this question).

Y1: Why the name Meghalaya?

Me: It is a combination of two words: Megham meaning clouds and alayam meaning abode. Hence, in its entirety, Meghalaya signifies abode of the clouds.

Y1: Famous tribes in that region?

Me: Could not answer (Meghalaya tribes can mainly be classified into three groups - Garos, Khasis, and Pnars or Jaintias.)

Now O2 starts asking the question...

O2: You took political science in 4th semester? What did you study over there?

Me: Told him that it was about gender discrimination and inequality. (He did not seem satisfied with the answer.)

O2: What you studied in probability?

Me: Told that I studied about probability distribution. (Should have elaborated more on the same).(Univariate probability distributions include the binomial distribution, the hypergeometric distribution, and the normal distribution while normal distribution is a commonly encountered multivariate distribution.).

O2: what are the type of distribution?

Me:- Told in detail (explained answer given above)

O2: Explain Bernoulli trial?

Me: explained in detail starting with definition and assumptions of Bernoulli trial. (Bernoulli trial (or binomial trial) is a random experiment with exactly two possible outcomes, "success" and "failure", in which the probability of success is the same every time the experiment is conducted. Example: rolling of dice)

O2: How can we say that trials are independent?

Me: Tried to explain but he seemed not satisfied and asked twice to explain. When tried to explain using an example, O2 asked to explain the definition and in terms of exact statistical term. could not answer exactly what he wanted as an answer. (An event is independent of itself if and only if

O2: Find probability (Gave a question based on dice.) Easy one

Me: Answered correctly

O2: what did you study in operation research.

Me: Linear programming, Transport problem, Inventory problem etc...

O2: What is linear programming?

Me: answered (Linear programming (LP, also called linear optimization) is a method to achieve the best outcome (such as maximum profit or lowest cost) in a mathematical model whose requirements are represented by linear relationships.)

O2: what is a transport problem?

Me: Answered partially. could not use the right words to describe this problem. O2 did not seem satisfied and his face showed that I was heading toward Danger zone. (The transportation problem is a special type of linear programming problem where the objective is to minimize the cost of distributing a product from a number of sources or origins to a number of destinations. Because of its special structure, the usual simplex method is not suitable for solving transportation problems.

O2: Is transport problem a type of linear programming?

Me: Explained correctly as mentioned above but O2 was adamant not to accept my answer as correct.

O2: Pen down the structure of Linear programming model?

Me: wrote correctly on the sheet of paper. Did miss to complete optimum solution Z. (It is something like this- A linear programming problem is mathematically formulated as follows:

A linear function to be maximized or minimized

e.g.

maximize $c_1 x_1 + c_2 x_2$

- Problem constraints of the following form

e.g.

$a_{11} x_1 + a_{12} x_2 \leq b_1$

$a_{21} x_1 + a_{22} x_2 \leq b_2$

$a_{31} x_1 + a_{32} x_2 \leq b_3$

- Default lower bounds of zero on all variables.

The problem is usually expressed in matrix form, and then becomes:

1. maximize CTx subject to $Ax \leq B$ $x \geq 0$

O2: what is a feasible solution?

Me: Defined correctly (It satisfies the entire constraints provided in the optimization problem. The feasible region of the optimization problem is defined by all the set of the feasible solutions.)

O2: what is the basic feasible solution?

Me: Could not answer satisfactorily (A constraint is active for a particular solution if it is satisfied at equality for that solution. A basic solution that satisfies all the constraints defining or in other words, one that lies within is called a basic feasible solution.)

O2: What is the optimum solution?

Me: Answered (An optimal solution is a feasible solution where the objective function reaches its maximum (or minimum) value – for example, the most profit or the least cost. A globally optimal solution is one where there are no other feasible solutions with better objective function values.)

Y1 and O2 discuss for a second and ends it.

Soon after they Offered me a candy. I picked one.

Interview and WAT Experience–17

Date- 07/03/2019

Location- Bangalore

Slot- Morning (reporting time- 8:00AM)

After the documents verification we were divided into groups and led towards the GD-PI room.

GD:

There were six aspirants in my panel (3 aspirants were absent). It was a case discussion. Legal and ethical perspectives were mentioned during the discussion.

PI:

I was third in line for interview. I was called in and asked to take a seat.

There were two interviewers: male about 55 years (M), female about 50 years (F). They were also our GD moderators.

M took my file and was going through my scorecards and certificates.

F- Do you follow news.

Me- Yes ma'am I do.

F- Tell me some recent news from Karnataka.

Me- Answered about political situation in the state, recently concluded air show in Bangalore.

F- Interrupts and asks about bilateral treaty signed between India and Bangladesh four months ago.

Me- I am not sure.

F- Tell how the interim budget has affected the corporate world both industry and employees.

Me- Started with tax slab, mentioned about changes in GST implementation, perks to start-ups.

F- How has GST affected manufacturing sector in India?

Me- Talked about process of filing returns, multiple taxes being merged into one.

F- Interrupts and asks how it has affected the business of the industry.

Me- Said I was not completely aware, but tax slabs have changed for certain commodities which would have influenced the business. Mentioned how tax slabs on certain FMCG goods have decreased and how textiles were brought into the ambit of GST. (F looked satisfied with the answer)

*M who had gone through my file starts asking questions. *

M- Around 5 technical questions on the current project that I'm working on at work.

Me- Tried to answer all of them.

The headquarters of my company is in USA

M- So in companies like yours where the HQ is in some other country, what are the challenges that employees in India face.

Me- Talked about how most innovative work is mostly done in the headquarters for most companies and not related to my current company specifically. Also mentioned that countries like India, China, etc. are considered low cost geographies. (M seemed satisfied)

*Now the elephant in the room- Academics

I'm Jon Snow, I know nothing :P *

M- Asks me about some three four terms which I had heard for the first time in life.

Me- I'm not sure sir for everything.

M goes through my profile again and comments: "Oh you are a CS and not an EC engineer"

Me- *Sighs*

M- Asks me basic questions from CS like difference between C++ and C#, garbage collection.

Me- Answered them partially.

Finally, the toffee conundrum- M offered me a toffee which I happily accepted and left.

Interview and WAT Experience–18

1st May 2018, 9:00 am slot

Venue: Institute of Hotel Management, Mumbai

Case discussion:

(3 minutes to read. 10 minutes to discuss.)

It was about a person Hari working for chemical company who built a plant near river Ganges and had permission from Pollution board to dump wastes in river but additional phase is required to treat wastes. His supervisor denies him building additional phase stating company is in tight financial conditions and he's new here so should obey orders and or else CEO will remove him. Discuss what should Hari do?.

Personal Interview:

2 panellists, 1 male Mr.Santosh Kr. Prusty (P1), 1 Female Mrs.Naliniprava Tripathy(P2).

(I came to know their names from IIM Shillong website and didn't knew at time of interview.)

I was in Panel 3. 6th and last candidate to be interviewed. So i had to wait longer than anyone.

Duration: 20-25 minutes.

Asked to enter by P1. Politely greets panellists. Asked to have a seat.

Words in brackets are my thoughts.

P2: So where are you from?

Me: Mumbai but native of Gujarat

P1: Oh Gujarat so which part do u belong to?

Me: From North Gujarat near Mehsana region

P1:So who stays in your village and how is the culture there?

Me: responds stating no1 stays there but we go once in a year for religious function and stay for 3–4 days

P2: Okay you are jain (good observer i see) so tell me why is it mandatory to become monk in your religion?

Me: I explained stating that it is not mandatory to be a monk but recently many people are taking this path and explained some facts about it. Seems convinced.

P1: So what you have studied and where have you worked?

Me: answered

P2: What was your role in the job? How is GST involved in your trading business (had mentioned background about family business. hence the Question)?

Me: Answered how manufacturer levies GST and gave some basic explanation about input tax credit and gave benefits of buying products from gst registered vendors and non-gst registered vendors. She seemed satisfied.

P1: So how many employees work and what is the annual turnover?

Me: Answered.

Now the rapid fire began

P1: Do u know anything about North East?

Me: Yes, the seven sisters. Named them including Sikkim.

P1: Are you sure sikkim is there?

Me: yes sir..as far as i remember but not 100% confident.

P1: which is the main river there and what is the issue?

Me: Answered brahmaputra and talked about china blocking passage of flow of water.

P1:What is deccan plateau?

Me: Gave answer about what is deccan region and said didn't exactly know abt deccan region.

P1: what is setu bharatam?

Me: Asked whether is it about interlinking of rivers?..(Facepalm Moment).

P1: do u know about Ram setu? where is it?

Me: yes sir..Southernmost India to Srilanka..Told about Lord Ram and Ravana from Ramayana.

P1: why is china interested in SriLanka?

Me; Told about how china had extended Billion dollar rupees and had taken hambantota port and trying alternative route for South Asia and africa for trade since India didn't join BRI.and cornering India from 3 sides .Told about recent China meet about same trying to divert him to that area.

P1: What do you know about Syria war? why are US and Russia interested in Syria War?

Me: Told about ISIS and regional war and how US sending troops to eliminate them..Told them US interested since Syria has good amount of Oil Reserves.

P1: Is ISIS only in Syria? Is oil the only reason?

Me: No. Told about presence in Iraq and said yes Oil is one of the reason(should have kept quiet this time).

Now P2 enters discussion.

P2: So you did Mcom too. What are you planning ahead. And your favourite Subject in Undergrad?

Me: Yes..completing Mcom this year.. Did specialization in finance. had subjects on Portfolio Management and investing.Cleared CFA L1 simultaneously.

P2: Oh portfolio management? So what is Arbitrage pricing Model?

Me: ma'am we didn't study that.Moreover it comes in CFA L2 curriculum and i Haven't started studying for it.(relieved).

P2: What is random walk theory? how it is used?

Me: ma'am we didn't study this either.

P2: so what are the valuations method ?

Me: Answered correctly.

P2: What is technical analysis?

me: Answered.

P2: What are the indicators in that do you know any?

Me: Answered and gave example of one of my strategy learned online.Seemed Satisfied.

P2: What is efficient market Hypothesis?

Me: Answered and gave examples.

Now,

P1: So, what is the environmental and sanitation issue with Mumbai?

Me: told about Aarey colony issue with metro carshed being planned and AAP protesting to shift to other location and saving green cover. Also,maharashtra govt. initiative about waste collection.but lack of awareness leads to mixing of dry and wet wastes and problems related to that.Plastics being banned recently but allowed for certain industries.

P1: What other than that?

Me: Told about deonar dumping ground being fullled. and No alternative found out.

P1: So is it usable area or barren land?

Me: Told it is not a usable area. Plus alternative sites are there but they are too small to sustain and therefore real problem still lies.

P1: What do you think about weather of Mumbai? What problems you are seeing?

Me: Sir, being a Mumbaikar, i feel Hot and Humid 12 months a year (it's true though). Nothing great except occasional rainfall in summers.

P2: Okay we are done. Take as many candies from the bowl in front of you as you want. Since you were last. Politely takes 2 mentos.

Me: Thanks them. Exits.

VERDICT: CONVERTED. Selection Awaits.

Interview and WAT Experience–19

Date - 20/2/2020

Location - HMATC ,Mumbai

Profile - Mechanical Engineer with 15 months of work experience in the oil and gas industry.

2 panelists P1 and P2 aged between 45-50

P1 - First question after entering the room, how much tall you are?

Convert 6 ft into cm ?

P2 - Tell me about yourself.

Asked me about Left hander's association which I mentioned.

P2 - What are problems generally faced by left handed people?

P1 - Asked questions related to work experience.

Current oil prices?

Major oil exporting countries?

Which currency is used for trade of oil?

Name the country which was ready to export the oil to India and accept money in rupees ?

P2 - Difference between 2 stroke and 4 stroke?

Asked me to draw Otto cycle, diesel cycle and explain it in detail.

Asked about various tool angles.

They offered me a candy and asked to leave.

Total Duration - 15 min

VERDICT: Direct Convert.

Interview and WAT Experience–20

Background: 10th - 89.5%

12th - 93.38%

BBA - 9.21

CAT score - 97.31%ile

Location - Institute of Hotel Management, Mumbai

Well after the IIM CAP disaster that took place on 12th February(Vinay Hirani's answer to How was your IIM cap interview? If you have a new IIM interview, what is your profile?), I was nervous for my IIM Shillong which was scheduled for 15th of February 2020. The only thing I was happy about was there would be no WAT and rather a Case Discussion would take place. I was confident that I have a chance to make a good first impression here and then insecure, smooth PI.

While the document verification took place, the invigilator specifically mentioned that no grilling would take place and after listening to this, I could detect how the candidates were relieved. So was I. I checked the panel number and proceeded with the process.

Case Discussion

It was about an electric company that is facing a financial crisis in times of economic recession. It needs to cut down on expenses and avoid the power theft thus the CEO instructed that no overtime working should be allowed or else severe punishment will be delivered for violation.

A worker is in a dilemma as he needs to work overtime to get the job done. He asks his senior to which he replies that do whatever you want to do. Considering the punishment and all, he leaves the work incomplete. This results in Cable damage because of heavy rain last night giving losses on the part of the company. Was the overtime policy correct?

My performance was decent. I contributed good enough points and also asked the silent strugglers to put forth their view. All in all, a good round for which I am happy.

Personal Interview

Panel - 2 Male members one a bit older than the other. Let's name them O(Older) and Y(Younger)

I was 2nd in my panel

O - So, Vinay, tell me something about yourself (counting all the practice I took for this question, it was 2656245 time I was reciting this answer)

M - Told (convincing expressions mixed with the rote answer)

S - What are these magnetic shoelaces? (I did a small business where I was selling to the people something new which they never witnessed. This was done when I was in my 11th standard. If you want to know what the product specification is, please visit this video - Zubits - Magnetic Shoe Closures)

M - Explained

O - So, what kind of magnets are they?

M - Sorry sir, I do not know that?

O - You are an engineer and you don't know this? (He was shocked)

Y - No sir, he is a BBA graduate.

O - Ohh, my bad, Sorry. So how do these laces function?

M - Explained

O - Aren't they heavy?

M - No sir, they have a plastic covering so the weight only rests on the magnets and the magnets are (using my hand to show them) this small sir. So its weight is very low.

O - What benefits does it possess?

M - Told everything

Y - So, what is a Want?

M - When you have a desire to have a product.

Y - So, you are using one concept to explain the other one.

M - Sir, but I see that as these concepts are linked, a better understanding can take place after we co-relate everything.

Y - What is a desire?

M - told

Y - What is a Demand?

M - Told.

Y - You Participated in MUNs, ha? What is UNODC?

M - Told

Y - What it does?

M - Told, vague answer though

Y - What is the Red Corridor?

M - Sorry sir, I don't know.

They acknowledged among themselves and said Ok Vinay, you can go now.

As soon as I got up from the chair,

Y - Please take a candy

M - Thank you so much, Sirs.

The end

Results - STRAIGHT REJECT

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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.

For More Details about the CATKing IIM WAT PI Preparation course with IIM A, B, C, L, SPJIMR Mentors, Contact 8999118999 or

Visit: <https://www.courses.catking.in/iim-wat-pi-courses/>



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