

Consulting Interview Advice

- What type of consulting does the firm do? Why have you chosen to apply to this firm?
 - Management vs strategy consulting
 - Boutique vs large firm
- What is the firm's interview format? It normally says on the website.
 - How many rounds of interviews or each firm?
 - What might you be asked in each round? This tells you what skills to highlight so you can streamline for each interview.
 - Some firms have separate Personal Experience interviews and Case interviews, others just have Case interviews...
- Personal Experience Interviews
 - Work with the STAR format in your answers: situation, task, answer, result. Structure this interview too.
 - What skills do you have that would make you suited to the role and give an example where you used this skill.
 - Prepare a few examples for teamwork, leadership, perseverance, problem-solving, going the extra mile to ensure quality of work etc.
 - Focus on the IMPACT you personally had (in a wider team context). What results did you strive for and achieve?
 - Why do you want to pursue a career in consultancy?
- Case interviews: practice
 - Mental Maths practice as often as possible. Five minutes every day would be very helpful.
 - Look at case workbooks online. We recommend the Darden 2019 case book and the Wharton case book.
 - CaseCoach is another online tool that gives practice case interviews and guidance. The interview course is extremely comprehensive though costs £99 as a one-time payment. The site does also have a free resume course and free case study practice with top candidates.
 - Practice a few cases with a friend to practice structuring your thoughts out loud.
- Case interviews: the real thing
 - Clarify key details at the beginning to understand what is going on and what is expected.
 - Structure your answer — it is fine to take a minute to think or write notes.
 - Parts
 - 1. Introduction
 - Interviewer introduces the case and the problem, usually with 1-2 slides of key data.
 - Summarise the problem in your own words and ask any questions.
 - 2. Framework
 - Take 1-2 minutes to jot down a framework. Be formulaic but try to think creatively – a pre-determined structure may not necessarily fit the case.

- Talk your structure through with the interviewer (2-3 mins usually), in a candidate-led case you suggest where you want to start solving the problem.
- 3. Main interview
 - Depends on interviewer-led case or candidate-led case.
 - Types of questions
 - Brainstorming/general business generation
 - Estimating (e.g. market sizing)
 - Quantitative analysis
 - Chart interpretation
- 4. Synthesis / wrapping-up
 - Summarise what you would recommend the client do and why.
 - Back up this recommendation with numbers and explain how you got to this conclusion.
- Other sign-up tips
 - Sign up to <https://cheddar.softr.app>! It has links to consulting internship opportunities, links to company websites and other key resources.
 - Sign up to OxWIB's next mentorship scheme where you can be paired with an industry professional to practise case studies with or talk through interview advice!