50 interview questions for freshers

A practice pack for final-year students and new graduates. Pick questions for your next interview and answer them using work you actually did.

A 15-minute practice round

1. Spend three minutes choosing one question from each set. Jot down a real example for each.
2. Spend seven minutes answering aloud. Aim for about a minute per answer. Ask a friend to pick one surprise follow-up.
3. Spend five minutes listening back. Replace one vague claim with an action you took or a check you ran, then try that answer again.

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The last page has a worksheet for rehearsing your final-year project.

Introductions and motivation

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

Start with what you do now, give one relevant example, and explain why this role interests you.

01 Tell me about yourself.

02 Why are you interested in this role?

03 What did you learn in college that you would use in this job?

04 Which project would you put first on your resume, and why?

05 What do you know about the work this team does?

06 Why did you choose your degree or area of study?

07 What skill are you working on right now?

08 What strength would a teammate say you bring to a project?

09 What do you hope to learn in your first six months?

10 Why should we hire you for this entry-level role?

TRY IT ALOUD

Choose one skill named in the job description. Pair it with a concrete task you completed and say the connection in one sentence.

Final-year projects and internships

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

Explain the problem, name your part, describe one decision, show how you checked the result, and say what you learned.

11 Explain your final-year project to someone outside your field.

12 Which part did you own, and what did your teammates own?

13 Who was the project for, and what problem did it solve?

14 What alternative approach did you consider?

15 Tell me about one bug or mistake that was hard to diagnose.

16 How did you test whether your project worked?

17 Which part of your work would you improve with another week?

18 What did you do when the project scope changed?

19 What feedback did you receive, and what did you change?

20 What would you show first in a two-minute project demo?

TRY IT ALOUD

“I built the booking check. I tested it with overlapping and back-to-back slots. I’d add tests for time-zone changes next.” Use your own project and checks.

Teamwork and ownership

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

Use STAR. Give the situation and task briefly, then spend most of the answer on your action and the result or lesson.

21 Tell me about a disagreement in a team and how you handled it.

22 Describe a time you missed a deadline or came close to missing one.

23 When did you take responsibility for a task nobody had picked up?

24 Tell me about feedback that changed how you work.

25 How did you help a teammate who was stuck?

26 Tell me about a time you asked for help early.

27 How did you decide what to do first when everything felt urgent?

28 Describe a mistake you owned and how you fixed it.

29 Tell me about a time you changed your mind after seeing new evidence.

30 Give an example of explaining a complex idea to a beginner.

TRY IT ALOUD

Pick a group assignment. Practise one sentence about what the group achieved and one sentence about the action you personally took.

Technical and analytical thinking

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

Clarify the goal, walk through your approach with a small example, then describe how you would test it.

31 How would you check whether a form accepts valid data and rejects bad input?

32 How would you investigate a page or task that suddenly became slow?

33 How would you find duplicate entries in a list of registrations?

34 What would you check before trusting a spreadsheet total?

35 How would you explain your approach to a problem you have never seen?

36 What would you test first after fixing a bug?

37 Describe one trade-off between a quick solution and a reusable one.

38 How would you handle a dataset with missing values?

39 How would you compare two approaches when both appear to work?

40 What would you do if your first test passed but a user still saw the problem?

TRY IT ALOUD

Take question 33. Explain what makes two entries duplicates, give a small input example, and show how you would check that you kept the right row.

Follow-ups and closing

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

Give the short answer first, support it with one detail, and state what you would do next if the interviewer asks you to go deeper.

41 Why did you choose that approach?

42 What was the hardest trade-off in that decision?

43 What evidence would make you change your answer?

44 How would you adapt that approach with half the time?

45 What part of that example would you handle differently today?

46 How would you explain the same answer in 30 seconds?

47 What would you do if the interviewer asked about a tool you have never used?

48 Can you give another example of the same skill?

49 Is there anything else you want us to know about your work?

50 What would you like to ask us about the role or team?

TRY IT ALOUD

Prepare two closing questions. Ask what a new hire would own in their first month and how the team gives feedback.

Your final-year project worksheet

Fill this out for one project you can talk about in an interview.

1. **The project and the problem it addressed**

2. **The part I owned**

3. **One decision I made and the reason for it**

4. **What I tested or observed**

5. **What I learned or would change**

Say it once in 60 seconds. For your follow-up, explain what you would change if you had another week.

Practise with Answer Buddy

Read the final-year project guide

Read the fresher introduction guide