

Case interviews are an interview format, most often utilized by consulting firms, where candidates are presented with a business situation or problem and are asked to walk the interviewers through the process of solving it. The reason the interview is structured this way is that employers want to see your approach to solving problems. Case interviews will vary greatly depending on the employer, so use this guide to understand the essentials of a case interview to inform your study/research process.

Interview Structure

Fit Interview 10-15 mins.

Case Interview 30-40 mins.

Conclusion 5-10 mins.

What to Research

- Case interview **theories and common questions**
- **Consulting frameworks** (e.g., the five C's, the 4 P's, SWOT analysis, the BCG matrix, Porter's Five Forces)
- **Financial statements:** Understand the basics of what drives profits and typical expenses
- **Issue trees:** Customized frameworks to break cases down into smaller parts
- **MECE Principle:** Mutually exclusive, collectively exhaustive approach to consulting
- Practice **mental math**
- Recent **economic and market trends**

DON'T focus on the answer of the overall problem.

DO focus on your thought process and ability to communicate your reasoning.



Four Commandments

The four commandments are a problem solving strategy for business that leads to logical effective decision-making for clients, especially in consulting. The interviewer is your client, and you will want to write down the information they share and get clarification.



<https://www.preplounge.com/en/bootcamp.php/interview-first-aid/crack-the-case-interview/approaching-a-case>

Candidate-led Interviews

Candidate-led interviews feature broad problems to be solved. It is then the candidate's job to ask probing questions to gather additional information to inform their strategy.

Candidates will have much of the control over structuring the problem, developing frameworks, asking for additional data and synthesizing information to find solutions.

Interviewer-led Interviews

In this style of interview, the interviewer is in control of the case. This means that the interviewer will break the case down into smaller parts and have the candidate work on one question at a time.

With this style, it is less important to solve the overall case than it is to nail each individual question.

Types of Case Interviews

- Brain Teasers
- Competition
- Growth
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Pricing
- Profitability
- New Initiatives
- New Product

Skills Being Assessed

- Business Acumen
- Commercial Awareness
- Communication
- Creativity
- Numerical and Verbal Reasoning
- Presentation
- Problem-Solving
- Structure and Thought Process

Case Interview Resources**Books**

- *Hacking the Case Interview* by Taylor Warfield
- *The Ultimate Case Interview Workbook* by Taylor Warfield
- *Case Interview Secrets* by Victor Cheng
- *Embrace the Case Interview* by Brad Schiller

Podcasts

- The Case Interview Podcast
- Case Interview & Management Consulting Podcast

Websites

- casequestions.com
- myconsultingcoach.com
- igotanoffer.com
- managementconsulted.com
- mconsultingprep.com

DO focus on the key specific details shared in the scenario. Ask follow up questions to give more context to impact your analysis and inform your decision-making process.

**Firm and Company Websites****Accenture**

- <https://www.accenture.com/us-en/about/company/all-stories>

Bain & Company

- <https://www.bain.com/careers/hiring-process/interviewing/>

Booz Allen Hamilton

- <https://www.boozallen.com/careers/candidate-resources/preparing-for-your-booz-allen-interview.html>

Boston Consulting Group

- <https://careers.bcg.com/us/en/case-interview-preparation>

Deloitte

- <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/careers/articles/join-deloitte-case-interview-prep-tool.html>

Ernst & Young (EY)

- https://www.ey.com/en_us/careers

KPMG

- <https://www.hackingthecaseinterview.com/pages/kpmg-case-interviews>

LEK

- <https://www.lek.com/join-lek/apply/interview-preparation>

McKinsey

- <https://www.mckinsey.com/careers/interviewing>

Oliver Wyman

- <https://www.oliverwyman.com/careers/entry-level/interview-preparation.html>

PricewaterhouseCoopers

- <https://www.pwc.com/us/en/careers.html>

Roland Berger

- <https://www.rolandberger.com/en/Join/Join-Us/Start-Your-Journey/Tips-tricks.html>