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.

### 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

### Interview Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fit Interview</td>
<td>10-15 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Interview</td>
<td>30-40 mins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td>5-10 mins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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.

- **Listen & Clarify**
- **Plan & Hypothesize**
- **Think & Gather**
- **Structure & Close**

### 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

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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

Bain & Company

Booz Allen Hamilton
- https://www.boozallen.com/careers/candidate-resources/preparing-for-your-booz-allen-interview.html

Boston Consulting Group

Deloitte

Ernst & Young (EY)

KPMG

LEK

McKinsey
- https://www.mckinsey.com/careers/interviewing

Oliver Wyman

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Roland Berger