

Your Pre-Interview Checklist

Prepare to land your next tech job

Getting ready for an interview can be a daunting task, especially if you're not sure where to start. And in the tech world where competition's even fiercer, that daunting task can turn into dread really fast.

That's why we've decided to outline best practices to help you prepare for your next tech role — including a checklist of pre-interview tasks to complete to ensure you make a great first impression.

Step 1: Review the job description and research the company

Before your interview, you should review the job description thoroughly and spend some time researching the company.

Understanding the role's requirements and expectations will help you tailor your answers and your own questions during the interview, and researching the company will give you insight into their culture, values, and overall mission, which can help you position your responses accordingly.

Checklist:

- Review the job description and highlight key responsibilities, skills, and qualifications.
- Research the company's history, culture, and values.
- Look for recent news articles or press releases to understand the company's current initiatives or projects.

Step 2: Review core technical concepts and refresh your knowledge

Tech and cloud interviews generally focus on position-relevant core technical concepts, so be sure to refresh your knowledge on the fundamental concepts and programming languages that you might be tested on. You'll get a good idea of what areas to focus on when you review the job description and research the company in Step 1.

Checklist:

- Review fundamental concepts in computer science, such as algorithms, data structures, and object-oriented programming.
- Refresh your knowledge on programming languages relevant to the position.
- Look for technical interview resources online, like Cloud Academy's hands-on labs or coding challenge websites, to practice coding exercises.

Step 3: Practice common interview questions and brain teasers

In addition to technical questions, interviews may also include behavioral and situational questions, as well as brain teasers or logic puzzles. Practicing answering common interview questions and brain teasers can help you become more comfortable with the interview process.

Checklist:

- Search for common technical interview questions and practice your responses.
- Research relevant brain teasers or logic puzzles and practice solving them.
- Practice explaining your approach and thought process for each problem.

Step 4: Brush up on your soft skills

Like technical skills, employers look for strong communication and teamwork skills in their potential employees. Brushing up on soft skills can help you show that you're a well-rounded candidate who can work effectively within a team.

Checklist:

- Practice active listening and effective communication skills.
- Review common team building and collaboration strategies.
- Practice giving and receiving feedback constructively.



Step 5: Prepare questions to ask the interviewer

Employers appreciate candidates who ask thoughtful questions during their interview. Preparing questions in advance shows that you are engaged and interested in the position. (Pro tip: Keep your thoughts and questions organized in an online document or notebook.)

Checklist:

- Write down questions you have about the role or the company.
- Prepare questions that demonstrate your interest in the position or industry.
- Avoid asking questions that could easily be answered by researching the company's website or social media accounts.

Getting ready for a tech interview takes research, practice, and plenty of attention to detail. By following the best practices outlined in this guide and completing the checklist of tasks, you can give yourself an edge, avoid anxiety, and be well-prepared for your upcoming interview.

Good luck!

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