



INTERVIEW QUESTION BANK

Recruiter Phone Screen Questions

- **Eligibility:**
 - Can you please confirm your graduation date and major?
 - Will you now or in the future require sponsorship to work in the U.S.?
- **Logistical:**
 - This role will be based out of [location]. Can you confirm you're located here or would be willing to relocate?
 - The anticipated salary range/hourly rate for this role is [X]. Does this align with your expectations?
- **Common Questions:**
 - Tell me about yourself.
 - Walk me through your resume.
 - Why are you interested in this role/company?
 - Why are you a good fit for this role/why should we hire you?

Behavioral Interview Questions

- **Problem Solving:**
 - Tell me about a time when you dealt with a difficult client or stakeholder.
 - Tell me about a time you faced a challenge and how you overcame it.
 - Tell me about a time when you made a mistake at work and what you learned from this experience.
- **Flexibility/Adaptability:**
 - Tell me about a time you had to learn something quickly.
 - Tell me about a time when you encountered something unexpected on the job and you needed to act quickly.
 - Tell me about a time when you had to manage conflicting priorities.
- **Teamwork:**
 - Tell me about a time you were successful on a team.
 - Tell me about a time when you demonstrated leadership skills.
 - What type of team member are you?
- **Conflict:**
 - Tell me about a time you had to share bad news with someone?
 - Tell me about a time when you had to convince someone of your idea?
 - Tell me about a time you worked with a difficult team member.
- **Organizational Fit/Culture:**
 - How does this opportunity relate to your future career goals? Why this industry?
 - Which of our values do you resonate the most with and why?
 - How would your classmates, teachers, colleagues, or mentors describe your working style?

Technical Interview Questions

- **Investment Banking:**
 - Tell me about a recent deal. Walk me through why it happened, how it was structured, and what you found interesting about it.
 - Pitch me a stock. Tell me about a company you'd buy or sell right now and why.
 - What industries are attractive right now, and where do you see investment banking activity heading in the next 12–18 months?
 - Refer to our [IB Recruiting Guide 2026-2027](#) for more questions.
- **Capital Markets:**
 - Why choose debt over equity, or equity over debt? Walk me through the factors a company would consider when deciding how to raise capital.
 - Explain the yield curve. What does it normally look like, and what does it signal when it inverts?
 - How have interest rates affected M&A, IPO, and consumer activity over the past year?
 - Refer to our [Capital Markets Recruiting Guide 2026-2027](#) for more questions.



- **Sales & Trading:**

- A 30-year Treasury is at par with a 7% coupon. A year from now its YTM rises to 11%. What happens to the price, and roughly by how much?
- A bond has a modified duration of 7 and yields rise 50 bps. What is the approximate price change?
- What are you following in markets right now? Walk me through a view. Give me the macro context, what's changed recently, and how you'd express it.
- Refer to our [Sales & Trading Recruiting Guide 2026-27](#) for more questions.

- **Quantitative Finance**

- What is the expected number of coin flips until you get heads twice in a row? Walk me through your reasoning out loud.
- You have a portfolio that is delta-neutral. Explain what that means and what risks you are still exposed to.
- What is the difference between realized volatility and implied volatility, and why does the gap between them matter for a trading strategy?
- Refer to our [Quantitative Finance Recruiting Guide 2026-27](#) for more questions.

- **Private Equity**

- Tell me about a recent deal you've been following. What was the investment thesis, and do you think it was a good deal?
- Tell me about an industry trend you've been following that you think is creating interesting PE opportunities right now.
- Where do you see a sector you're interested in in the next 3-5 years, and what does that mean for the types of companies a PE firm should be targeting today?
- Refer to our [Private Equity Recruiting Guide 2026-2027](#) for more questions.

- **Venture Capital & Growth Equity**

- Tell me about a recent deal in VC or growth equity that you found interesting. Why did the firm invest, and do you agree with the thesis?
- Tell me about an industry trend you've been following. Why is it attractive for early- or late-stage investing right now?
- What industries are attractive for venture or growth investing right now, and what is a specific company or category you'd be excited to back?
- Refer to our [VC & GE Recruiting Guide 2026-2027](#) for more questions.

- **Restructuring Finance**

- Walk me through a recent restructuring case you've prepared — cover why the company was distressed, what type of transaction it pursued, and why that structure made sense.
- What are the three types of Liability Management Exercises (LMEs), and what are the tradeoffs between pursuing an LME versus an in-court bankruptcy?
- What is a recent trend in restructuring that interests you?
- Refer to our [Restructuring Finance Recruiting Guide 2026-27](#) for more questions.

- **Consulting**

- A mid-sized airline's profits dropped 25% last year. Walk me through how you'd diagnose the cause.
- Estimate the number of cups of coffee sold daily in Chicago.
- A regional U.S. bank is considering entering the Canadian market. Should they? What factors would drive your recommendation?
- A hotel chain is considering acquiring a boutique competitor. Walk through how you'd evaluate whether it's a good deal, including synergies and risks.
- Refer to our [Guide to Consulting Case Interviews](#) for more questions.

- **Coding & Algorithms**

- Given an array of integers and a target sum, return the indices of the two numbers that add up to the target. What data structure makes this efficient, and what is the time complexity?
- Given an array of integers, find the longest subarray with a sum equal to k. What pattern applies here, and what is the time complexity?



- Given a binary tree, return the level-order traversal of its nodes' values. When would you use BFS vs. DFS, and what data structure does each rely on?
- Given a set of coin denominations and a target amount, find the minimum number of coins needed. Walk through your recurrence relation and the subproblems you're storing.
- Refer to this [Top Leetcode Questions database](#) for more questions.
- **System Design**
 - Design a URL shortener (e.g., bit.ly). How would you handle hashing, collisions, and redirect latency at scale? What database would you use and why?
 - Design a rate limiter for an API. Walk through at least two algorithms (e.g., token bucket, sliding window counter) and explain the trade-offs between them.
 - Design a messaging system like Slack. How do you handle real-time delivery, message storage, and read receipts for millions of concurrent users?
- **Data Analytics/Data Science**
 - How would you handle missing data in a dataset?
 - Walk me through how you would approach building a churn prediction model.
 - What is a p-value and how would you explain it to a non-technical stakeholder?
 - You have a table of user login events with timestamps. Write a query to find all users who logged in on three or more consecutive days.

Illegal Interview Questions

- Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) laws protect employees from job discrimination. There are certain questions that are illegal to ask (these vary on the state or country).
- It is illegal for employers to ask about age, genetics, birthplace, country of origin or citizenship, disability, marital status, family, pregnancy, race, color, ethnicity, religion, gender, sex, or sexual orientation.
- It's not always easy to know whether you are being asked an illegal question, but [this list](#) captures many of the questions that are either strictly illegal or fall into a gray area.