General Interviews and Communication

Objectives

- **Consider** the non-technical aspects of an interview

- **Prepare** some example answers to refer back to/adapt to different questions

Typical interview questions

I'm going to go over some of the typical interview questions that you'll come across in most interviews you come accross.

You can cheat a little by studying what each question wants from you and coming up with some pre defined answers based on what the question is trying to understand.

What's being considered in a Technical Interview

- A technical interview evidences your *skill* through *application* to:
    - Something relevant to the interviewer.
    - A problem you've not seen before
- It shows you can *reflect* on your process
    - Either whilst carrying out the interview or afterwards

What about the other interview?

- Professional life is more than writing code...

- What kind of *person* are you?

- Will you work well with *others*?

- Will you be able to function under *stress* or other adverse circumstances (If necessary)?

Typical interview questions: Who are you?

- Tell us about yourself
  - Personality, Priorities, Experience.
- What is your greatest *strength/weakness*?
  - Suitability, self-awareness, self-improvement
- What are your *goals* for the future?
  - Will you stick around? Are you keen to develop/progress
- How do you handle *stress/Pressure*?
  - Adaptivity/planning, self-awareness

Typical interview questions: How would you…?

- Proceed if presented with a task you *don't understand/have no idea* how to complete?
  - Generic problem solving
- Approach a situation where you *disagree* with a figure of *authority*?
  - Interpersonal skills, confidence, integrity?
- Explain to a *non-technical* person the reasons why you're unable to implement their request?
  - Communication

Typical interview questions: Tell me about…?

- A *difficult* work situation and how you handled it
  - Interpersonal, problem-solving, communication, *ability to learn/adapt*
- A time you make a *mistake*
  - Ability to learn/adapt
- Your *dream job*
  - Suitability/fit, expectations

Additional resources

- Article with questions and model answers:
  - [Top 10 Job Interview Questions and Best Answers](#)
  - [Your 2023 Guide to the Most Common Interview Questions and Answers](#)
- Bill Gates on 30 secon answers
  - [Watch Bill Gates Give Brilliant 30-Second Answers To Common Job Interview Questions](#)

Tips for answering interview questions

- Don't just say *what* - explain *why* and/or *how* as well.

- Use *examples* to justify your answers.

- As much as possible, put a *positive spin* on things...

- ...but *be honest/real* too!

Activities - Personality

- list 3-5 of you key *personality traits*
  - For *clearly positive* traits: outline examples of how you apply them to your work.
  - For *less helpful* traits: describe how you accomodate them and/or try to improve.

If you don't know where to start consider doing the [myers brigs personality test](#):

https://www.16personalities.com/.

⚠️ Warning: it is many peoples opinion that this is astrology for recruiters and entry level phychologists. You might get some insight, you might not. Who knows. It can appear randomly anywhere during working life.

Activities - Anecdotes

- List 2-3 *positive* and 2-3 *negative* experiences you've had in the context of work/university, including:
  - Team-related events

- Project- or programming-related tasks
- For each experience, note down:
  - *What* happened, and why
  - What it *demonstrates* about you
  - What you *learned* from it

Activities - Technical Interview Practice

- Hop onto to Codewars.
  - You'll get some general computer science tasks that'll generally mimic what you'll see on coding tests.
- If you're targeting an area which requires optimisation knowledge look into that subject area for your chosen language. Look at caching concurrency etc.
- Mark advent of code for the 1st of december. https://adventofcode.com/ (Advent calender of coding challenges.)