

Placement paper of TCS - Sep -15-2003

Hi,

This is about TCS campus recruitment 2003 at ICSE, Indore.

Selection Procedure contains 5 rounds:

1. Screening
2. Aptitude test + Psychometric test
3. HR + tech. Interview
4. Mgmt. Interview
5. Medical Examination

Each round is elimatory, even Psychometric if you are really worth nothing.

Screening criteria is:

65% in qualifying degree

60% in other classes

If you satisfy the above criteria, you'll be allowed to appear for the online aptitude test.

Aptitude test contains three sections:

Verbal English 32 Q. 20 mins.

Quantitative 50 Q. 40 mins.

Critical Reasoning 3 Para, 4Q, each 30 mins.

The test'll conducted using a oracle based n/w software Qubex. It contains many thousand questions, so old papers won't help much.

However, it is not true for Quantitative section.

It will begin with a sample test of 5 mins. duration. Each Question has 5 options, 1 is correct, No negative marking (i.e., no penalty for guessing).

Each section will appear one by one & will end automatically when time finishes. Even if you save time on some section u can't use it some other section. Time limit for each section is exclusive. Also, you can't revert back to any section once you leave it.

The software can be set to some cut-off score level. If you score above cut-off, you'll immediately see Psychometric test on your screen.

It contains 150 Q. to be answered in 30 mins. Each question has 3 options: Yes, No, Can't say.

Ques. are essentially the same as you'll find in any old paper.

Now, My trouble starts...

I was selected for interview. I'm giving details below...

I request group members & specially Suri sir to read the following carefully.

Plz. Mail me ur suggestions at <gr82mail@yahoo.com>

There were 5-6 Interview panels.

When, I entered the interview room, both(they were two) the interviewers were in good mood, me too.

(Unfortunately, we didn't end up the same...)

First, they asked me- WHY TCS?

I told them what good image of TCS I've in my mind: They are largest employers, they provide job satisfaction, they have high retention rate.

They, asked me to tell them something about myself?

I told about my family background, education, & my interest in Puzzles.

I also told them about my being a nominated member of International High IQ society (highiqsociety.org).

They asked me- have I tried for mensa.

I told them- I would love to, but its Indian chapter hasn't updated their website for a long time. I don't know when the next test is scheduled.

Then they gave me some puzzles to solve, It was fun. I wasn't able to solve the first. But, next 3 I answered correctly. When asked I explained it to them.

They were very much delighted. The guy who was asking the ques. left the room for making some arrangements.

The other guy asked me about the language that I like.

I told - I'm an expert in C. (I've reasons to say so, I can even Prove my expertise.)

He asked me- what operations can be performed on pointers.

I said- normal referencing, dereferencing, & normal arithmetic operations like addition, subtraction, increment, decrement.

The i said- using dereferencing operator one can perform all the operations allowed on referenced variables, using pointers.

But he said- can u divide pointers?

I said- no.

He said- then why did you say so? You are contradicting yourself.

I don't know when did I...

He asked me- do you know something about call by value & call by reference?

I said yes.

He asked me to tell the difference.

i said- If you use call by value, you create a copy of original object/var. & all the operations performed modifies only the copy. Original object remains unchanged.

But, If you use call by reference, a reference is created instead of a copy, & all the operations are reflected in original object.

He asked- so if you want to change the value, would you use a function or a procedure?

I said - a procedure.

He asked me- why?

I said- conventionally, function is used when we want't to return a value such as a status info. or result of any operation.

Then I said- since a procedure does not return any value to point of reference (where it was called) only the referenced values are manipulated.

He said- Now, you are saying that procedure doesn't return a value so u r contradicting urself for ur using procedure to change a value.

I said- no, a function is used when we want to return a value to point of reference. It can return only a single value. & original vals. are not modified unless

they use the return value of the function (i.e., by appearing on the L.H.S. of an assignment including a function call)

He asked- what does a function returns?

I said- any return value, that we want it return. Like result of an operation.

He asked- explain. Like if you want to add two values, then what would the function return?

I said- ok, if you are using a function sum like (i wrote it on a paper)

```
int sum (int a, int b)
```

```
{
```

```
return a+b;
```

```
}
```

& calling the function like

```
c = sum(a,b);
```

then the function sum will return the value of operation a+b to c.

he said- Wrong, you don't know anything. A function raises an error that's called its return value.

Then he asked - have you raised any error, have you used raise statement?

I said - no

He said - do you know we can handle the exception?

I said - yes i know about exception handling.

Then he said- so what we do in exception handling is that we catch the errors & raise the error conditions, this is the return value of a function.

This is the difference between procedure & function. Procedure doesn't raises any error, function does.

I said- you are talking about the ERRORLEVEL that is set by the function before exiting.

He said- no this is a status value. This is the return value of a function. This is what a function returns.

Now, I came to know he was talking in the context of how procedures are handled by OS.

Then he said- now what you have to say about ur knowledge of C?

I said - I'm still an expert in C.

He said- You were not able to tell even such a small thing. You even don't know what a function returns?

I said- I know, but, I was replying in a different context.

He got annoyed.

The first guy reentered now-

He told me about 3 yrs. bond & necessary relocation.

I said- it is reasonable & i'm ready for it.

Then, he asked me if I want to ask some questions?

I said -yes

Then I asked about their local client base & its contribution in their total revenue.

I was curious about it but didn't get a chance to ask the same in PPT, so I asked it here.

He told me- we don't know exactly, but it is around 20% of total revenue.

Then I asked- If i get into TCS at entry level, then what kind of responsibilities am i supposed to bear.

He told me about their training program & how one gets promoted to higher levels.

The I asked if they have any particular model for their projects or do they follow any particular model

The second guy (who was already annoyed), was very angry. His voice was rude.

He said- Is this the right place to ask such questions? You should not ask such questions. Why are u asking such questions?

I said- I'm just curious to know.

He chilled a bit - No we don't have any particular model, whatever model we follow approach remains the same more or less.

We put emphasis on quality, so rigorous QA is done at each level. We are CMM level5 company.

Then he asked- Do you know what is CMM?

I told it- It is Capability Maturity Model

He said- good.

That's how we ended.

After the interview i was asked to go upstairs, when i reached there. A guy came to me & asked me to follow him back downstairs.

There they asked me to appear for an interview again, this time with a different panel.

I started feeling uneasy: Well, why am I being reinterviewed, when no one else is.

When the new panel asked me how was the previous interview, how were the interviewers, were the question relevant?

I replied positively but now i was feeling more uncomfort.

when they asked the next question about my strength, I told them what's going on in my mind instead.

They asked me is it my strength, i said know that's what i'm feeling.

Then they told me i'm not being reinterviewed, it's a fresh interview. They asked me to relax a bit.

Then they repeated the question. I tried a lot, but still being in discomfort, i hardly answered the question.

I told them i've clear views towards life.

They asked me to explain.

I said - that means i am always clear about what i've to do next.

They asked- so what do you want to do next?

I said- I am looking for a good job that can provide me job satisfaction, & enable me to provide some financial support to my family.

They asked- we don't operate in indore, we don't operate in mp, you'll need to move.

I said - that's ok with me.

They asked - then what about ur family?remember we may have to post you in Jammu or any far place.

You'll not meet ur family for atleast 3 yrs. or may be 5 or 10 yrs.

I said - They don't have any objection on my relocation. They just want me to become self-dependent.

They asked- & what if 3 yrs. later they say we've selected a nice girl in indore, working in an equally good company at equally good position in Indore. What will you do then?

I said- I've not thought over it. So I can't tell you. At present, I am only concerned about a good job.

(THAT WAS MY MISTAKE, or atleast I think so)

Now I was completely took over the guy.

He asked- what kind of job are u looking for?

I said - one which requires a lot of logic to be employed. It should be challenging atleast.

He asked me- what if i put you in a testing job?

I said - that's ok. I will do that. If you know that i'm good at designing solution logic, then in order for my

being more beneficial for ur company, you will put me in an appropriate job sooner or later.

He said- that's ok but we've so many clients, if i get only testing job, i'll continually put u in testing job.

Then what will you do.

I said - then i'll find something of my interest in it.

He said - but testing is not at all any interesting job to do.

I said- I build my interest in whatever i do. I always find something of my interest.

He said- but you want a challenging job, & testing is not what you like.

I said- no. Even testing is also a challenging job.

He asked- How? What's challenging in testing?

I said- designing good test cases is challenging. It requires a lot of logic.

He asked- what's challenging in designing test cases?

I said- test cases shall be good, they should test all aspects of the software.

He asked - If a single test case can check all aspects of a software?

I said- no multiple test cases are designed. However, software must be check completely.

There should be minimum no. of bugs.

He said - minimum bugs or zero bugs?

I said - minimum bugs.

He asked - sure?

I said- yes.

He said- you are saying software should contain minimum bugs & not zero bugs. Are you sure?

I said - only ideal project contains zero bug. & Ideals are never real.

He said- Don't tell me these fundas.

I said- that's not my intention. I just want to say in practice no project can be totally bug free.

He said- you want't to say all projects are designed to have bugs.

I said- no. Designer aims at bug free design. Bugs are generally introduced during coding.

He said- you are saying designer aims at having no bugs, & tester aims at having minimum bugs.

I said- yes sir

He said- Are you sure?

I said- Yes, That's because when we try to eliminate the present bugs, we modify the code.

And hence some new bugs may get introduced in the code. Thus, a good tester always aims at having

minimum bugs.

He asked- And what will you say about a software having zero bugs.

I said- I'll say the software is really good.

He said- What do you mean? Suppose I appoint you to test a project & you don't find any bug in it.

What will you say then?

I said- That's great. I mean, if there is no bug in the project & if it is good performance-wise,

Then i must say the project is coded very nicely.

He asked- You won't say that testing was done badly & hence we find no bugs.

I said- If you trust me & you appoint me on such a responsible post of a tester,

& I don't find any bugs in it. Then you must also believe in my saying that project is coded very nicely,

& we don't find any bugs just because there aren't any.

Here we concluded the interview.

A few minutes later, two lists were declared, one of those candidates who were recommended for mgmt. interview,

& other of those who were not recommended. My name was present in the second list.

I asked the HR about my weak points, So that I can improve on them.

He said you must learn how to market urself.

If you've reached here (at the end of the mail) you are being really nice to me. Plz., send me any suggestions

that u have, or any comments, or just anything that comes in ur mind. This will help me to improve myself.

Send ur mails to:

gr82mail@yahoo.com

Thnx

- Gauhav

P.S.: The puzzle I wasn't able to solve reads:

If 60S=1M means 60 secs. equals 1 min. then what is meant by 3BMSHTR.

I replied may be 3 Big Minutes Spent on How To Read.

Now, I think it should be 313 Minutes equals 5 Hrs. & Thirteen Rotations.

If u know the answer plz. mail me.

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