

CONSULTING CASE INTERVIEW RESOURCES

What is a case interview?

Case interviews are a crucial part of the hiring process in the consulting industry. They are designed to test an applicant's knowledge of business and financial models, their ability to think fast, and sometimes even how well they work as part of a team.

Simply put, a case interview is the analysis of a business question. Unlike most other interview questions, it is an interactive process. Your interviewer will present you with a business problem and ask you for your opinion. Your job is to ask the interviewer logical questions that will permit you to make a detailed recommendation. The majority of case interviewers don't have a specific answer that you, the candidate, are expected to give. What the interviewer is looking for is a thought process that is both analytical and creative (what consultants love to call "out-of-the-box" thinking). Specific knowledge of the industry covered by the case question is a bonus but not necessary.

The interview with a consulting company normally lasts about half an hour. Of this time, about 5 to 10 minutes is taken up with preliminary chat and behavioral questions and five minutes of you asking questions about the company. This leaves 5 to 15 minutes for your case interview question or questions.

How do I prepare?

Read about the case interview process, learn about the various frameworks to draw upon during the case interview, and practice mental math problems. Research firms using Vault, Glassdoor and company websites.

Make sure you schedule plenty of time to practice case interviewing with a partner, alumnae and Career Engagement Center staff.

What resources should I use?

Online Case Preparation and Practice:

- [PrepLounge](#) - Interactive case preparation tool that allows students to schedule practice interviews with case partners.
 - To activate your account:
 - 1) Go to <http://www.preplounge.com/brynmawr>
 - 2) Register with your university email address (@brynmawr.edu)
 - 3) Verify your email to activate your premium membership
- [CQ Interactive](#) - Online interactive site which supplements Marc Cosentino's *Case in Point* book. Email cpd@brynmawr.edu to receive 90 day access.
- [Vault](#) – Career information website, career guides (including consulting and case interview guides!), employee surveys of top employers, career advice, and job listings
 - Visit <https://www.brynmawr.edu/career-civic/career-planning/employment-opportunities>
 - Click on “secure page” and login using Password: traditions
 - Create an account using your @brynmawr.edu email address

Consulting Firm Websites:

- McKinsey & Company - <http://www.mckinsey.com/careers/interviewing>
- Boston Consulting Group - <https://www.bcg.com/careers/path/consulting/practice-interview-cases.aspx>
- Bain & Co - <http://www.bain.com/careers/interview-preparation/index.aspx>

Student Groups:

- Bi-Co Consulting Club: bico.consulting.group@gmail.com
- Redefine Her Street

Alumnae/i

- Some Bryn Mawr alumnae/i have volunteered to assist students in practicing case interviews. If you would like to learn more about the opportunity to connect with a Bryn Mawr alum to prepare for case interviews, please email Megan Pongratz in the Career & Civic Engagement Center at mpongratz@brynmawr.edu

Books:

- *Case in Point: Complete Case Interview Preparation* by Marc Cosentino
- *Case Interview Secrets: A former McKinsey Interviewer Reveals How to Get Multiple Job Offers in Consulting* by Victor Cheng
- *Crack the Case System: Complete Case Interview Prep* by David Ohrvall

Don't Forget About the Other Interview Questions!

In addition to case interviews, candidates for consultant positions will also have fit interviews where they will be asked standard interview questions along with behavioral questions focused on the skills they are seeking (i.e., analytical, problem solving, communication, initiative, etc.)

Be prepared to answer:

- Why do you want to work in consulting?
- Why are you interested in this firm specifically?
- What are your strengths and weaknesses?
- Behavioral questions:
 - Describe a situation when you successfully persuaded someone to see things your way
 - Tell me about a time you were under a lot of pressure. What was going on, and how did you get through it
 - Describe how you would handle not being able to answer a question on the spot
- Why should we hire you?

For more tips, check out the **Interviewing handout** on The Career & Civic Engagement Center website and schedule a mock interview in

Handshake - <https://brynmawr.joinhandshake.com>

Sources:

Vault Guide to the Case Interview

Bi-Co Consulting Club Summer Boot Camp Curriculum