IIM- Kozhikode Interview Experiences

PGP Interviews

Transcript 1

Profile - 9/9/7, 2 months work ex, BTech Mech

WAT - 25 mins, no word limit
Cancel Culture - Providing a voice to the marginalized or stifling freedom of speech

Panel 5, 2M, very strict

P2 - Tell me why you left your job
(Explained)
P1 - It is seen that every engineer recently is ending up coding, you also seem the case
(Explained my case)
P1 - You have mentioned will power in face of failure as strength, tell me where you showed it
(Explained)
P1 - India and Canada have recently had a standoff, what is your stance
(Related to Khalistan, probably asked cuz I am Sikh, anyways supported India's case and explained)
P1- What is your take on India's stance in Russia v/s Ukraine
(Explained about importance of oil import)
P2 - What is pitting
(Mechanical stuff, didn't know this)
P2 - Alloy of Tin and Lead
(Told)
P2 - What is Ferrite?
(Told)
P2 - Are South Korea and North Korea under war?
(I said no but there are tensions, he told that they have been at war since 30-40 years and it hasn't ended yet, just ceasefire)
P2 - Ok you studied in Punjab, what ks the meaning of Punjab?
(Land of five rivers)
P2 - Which rivers flow in it currently?
(Satluj, Ravi, Beas)
P2 - Why was Ravi in news recently?
(Told)

Thanked and allowed to leave after this, lot of Current Affairs and some acad questions, gk test, strict panel, no laughs shared but managed to state my points without interruption. Lasted 20-22 mins.

Transcript 2

Profile: CA with 2 years Workex

WAT : Media Trials should be banned in favour of Judical Trials.

Interview 12-15 mins (2Female Panelists)

I went in and sat on the chair by myself, a panelist gave me a look (not rude but I felt it she was expecting for me to ask)

F1: asked abt my profile

C: Mentioned abt forecasting and budgeting

F1: cross questioned that if Top Mgt gives the Budget numbers what is the use of your forecasts

C: explained how it is used to find opportunities (she seemed half convinced)

F2: so where do you forecast yourself in 2 years exactly from now

C: In a top institute in my final semester looking for placement

F2: After PGP what?

C: Keeping an open mind for exact role but somewhere I can impact the bigger decisions of the co

F2 and F1: wasnt convinced, wanted a concrete career path

F2: Asked if I have applied for PGP Finance in IIM K and why not that

C: Answered

F2: given that your strength is simplifying things, lets see a case - why are Ford and such other German motors not able to do well in India? And solution

C: mentioned 3 problems
- Price sensitive Audience
- Accessibility issue
- Faulty Design as per Indian Infrastructure

Solution - should come up with new models and new centres to reach more public

F2: wouldnt all this increase cost and further reduce the profitability…instead close down Indian business

C: That can be a solution but I was suggesting ways for revival
(seemed not convinced)

F1: okay have a good day and dont chit chat outside

(Felt weird as it was a short interview and ended abrubtly
didnt ask anything on Affairs or why MBA)

Transcript 3

Profile : Female, 9/8/8, BBA in grad
WAT Topic : Climate change action : still time to take radical measures ?

P1: You have completed graduation in 2022, then also did a job and left it in 2022. Why so early?
Me : Explained
P1: A follow up question. You come from a small town, and you are here today. Must be having big dreams. No ?
Me: Said dreams are dreams, it's not big or small. We make it big when we work on it to actualize it . I don't have many dreams. Coz, I belong to a small town, only dreamt of becoming something and achieving my goals.
P1: Okay. What were your roles at the company
Me: Explained
P1: What is this company doing ?
Me: Explained
P1: You have done BBA. What was your specialization ?
Me: Answered
P1: Asked. Indian bonds will be added to global bond indexes from 2024, why was it not added earlier ? Any idea?

Me: Said, I am not aware of it.

P1: Said, okay no worries. We will go with something simpler. Why does the government issue bonds and not take loans?

Me : was able to answer but was not sure of it.

P1: Follow up question ? Are the general public very naive that they will let the government borrow money at a low rate of interest?

Me: Answered.

P1: asked me about my family background and why I wanted to do MBA?

Me : Answered.

Now, P2 comes into the picture. Till this point, he was constantly observing me, I had eye contact with him several times, while talking to P1. Although both of them was smiling the whole time.

P2: You talked about bonds. What is the difference between bonds and stocks?

Me: Answered. But I messed up a little bit. Explained bonds better than stocks.

P2: You did sales at your company. What were your targets?

Me : Answered

P2: Sales is a process. How did you do it? What was your process?

Me: explained

P2: Follow up question. What is this process called?

Me: Tried to answer. P1 intervenes and says very close. Still , I was not able to recall it.

P2: Do you read newspapers?

Me: answered.

P2: Do you read news from instagram as well? (said just to mock me as I quoted the online sources from where I read news.)

Me: Answered.

P2: Any news you want to talk about.

Me : I talked about the Maldives and Lakswadeep conflict.

Here p1 jumps in and says: what ? Did maldives attacked lakshadweep

Me : explain the whole conflict.

P1: says it might be the case that this news was fake ?

Me : I said, maybe. But we believe what we see. It was all over the place and was the talk of the town at that moment.

P2: asked if Maldives made personal comments on PM Modi ?

Me : Answered.

P1 says : Okay, we are done with your interview. It was nice talking to you. Then they offered me something to eat (some confectionery items were kept beside the table for the panelists, so they offered me some).

Me : I said and thank you and It was nice talking to you as well.

Transcript 4

WAT - GDP growth with Equality. Can India have both?
2 Panelists - One female One male

1. Why MBA after CA - Gave the prepared answer of wanting to switch to strategy consulting. There was a little questioning here about what is my current role and why strategy
2. Asked India's GDP ranking and countries before India. From that took towards Germany
3. Asked about key aspects of Germany - I answered talking about the automotive sector. Said she is interested in History and started speaking about hitler.
4. Discussion about his dictatorship, anti-semitism, WW2 and holocaust
5. Then asked about Karl Marx
6. Took the discussion to communism - Russia China and Kerala philosophies
7. Asked questions on Kerala politics.

Female panelist cross questioned and threw many questions. This question ended with current nation wide outlook around the globe having a mix of philosophies with inclination towards one majorly.

Then the Male panelist asked questions on CA journey. Wanted to know if it was all in first attempt or if I failed any papers.

Then asked me what would I like to talk about - I spoke about my hobbies. Male panelist asked for 2 famous painters - Spoke about Milind Mulick and Raja Ravi Verma. He asked about the mediums I use and Raja Tavi Verla's early life and where he belonged from. - Answered these. Then they asked me to leave.

Transcript 5

WAT: Quality of thought determines quality of life

P1: Professor of HR and Organisation Behaviour
P2: Professor of Quantitative Methods and Operations

P1: Ah Sanghai: has your name always been Sanghai or did your parents visit Shanghai and liked it so much that they changed your surname? As your parents write Agarwal, and you write Sanghai?

P1: Okay, so you reclaimed your ancestral surname? That's nice.

P1: Seems like you have recently resigned? You are confident you'll convert good calls this year? Which calls do you have?

P1: Give me a situation at work where you took a decision which led to embarrassment?
Me: (thought it was a trick question, so after 5-7 seconds of thinking, I responded with sorry I don't think I have ever embarrassed myself at work)

P1: Okay, give me a situation where there was a conflict and how did you resolve it?
Me: (gave an answer about a conflict with my manager over the methodology of a statistical tool I built on Excel, explained, and told him there was a communication gap, which upon communicating and whiteboarding got resolved)

P1: Okay, let's come back to the topic of reclaiming stuff. Tell me all you know about Gyanvapi Mosque?
Me: (told, in detail)
P1: Who built it, and when was it built?
Me: (told who built it, didn't remember when it was built)

P1: Okay seems like you're prepared. I can ask you anything right? Geography, history, current affairs?
P1: Okay, name all mountain ranges in India?
Me: (Here I was only able to name like 7)
P1: Which is the highest peak in India? And second highest?
Me: (Named the tallest and incorrectly named the second highest as 'Sir I am not sure, it's either Nanga Parbat or Nanda Parbat')
P1: Hahahaha, Nanga Parbat kuch nahi hota, it's Nanda Devi, but okay.
P1: Name the top 7 peaks in the world in descending order?
Me: (was like wtf, named top 3, couldn't go on)
P1: Name a few trekkers from India?
Me: (couldn't name any, lol) Sorry sir I don't know that
P1: Okay sir, I'm done.

Okay before you read on, let me give you some context. This entire mountain and trekking thing was random and out of the blue. Very random, and I fumbled - didn't know trekkers, didn't know the highest peaks after #3 etc etc.

P2: Okay, so in one of the answers I think you accidentally mentioned your client's name. That's not cool. You just violated your NDA, you must have one right?
Me: (Had talked about an APR walk tool in one of the situational questions, and he thought APR is a client, I clarified that APR is 'annual percentage rate' and not the name of my client)

P2: Okay, so you have 99.37%ile and your scaled score is 81.62. How exactly is that possible? How does scaling work? What is 81.62 as a percentage of total marks? What does 99.37%ile imply?
Me: Explained in detail

P2: Oh, so you're saying that you scored about 40-41% marks and you ranked around 1800 out of 2.88 lakh. This means that the majority of people scored below 40% on the exam. What does that tell you about the state of India?
Me: Spoke about the difficulty of this year's exam, and compared it to the past two years

P2: How would the distribution look like on a graph? How would it be skewed? Which side?
Me: Positively skewed graph, drew it for him

P2: Do you think with the data available with us right now, we can conclude nobody can score 100% (percent) on this exam?
Me: Sir, with the data available, we can't conclude that, theoretically speaking, I ranked 1800, the 1799 above me could have scored a 100% (theoretically). But this year, the highest score was 166.

P2: How do you know that? Do they publish it?
Me: No sir, but certain institutes use the highest score obtained in the CAT 2023 exam, and upon backcalculating my CS, I figured out it's 166.

P2: Okay, you have worked on Excel right? Here's a table (on a rough sheet, he had drawn a 5 column table with 10 rows). I don't exactly remember the questions but he asked me to write down formulas to analyse different things in the table (2-3 questions).
(For one of the questions, used the RANK function)

Transcript 6

Engineer female OBC
1.5yrs workex
1st in the panel

Both males P1,P2

P1: So tell us about yourself
As I was giving a prepared answer P1 stopped and asked questions as i was speaking (related to the statements i was saying- answered those)
P1: so you played states twice for basketball, why don't you pursue it as a career?
P1: what is the future of basketball in India?

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P1: what is the ranking of Indian team?
P1: is there any league for basketball in India?
P1: who is the title sponsor?
P1: who won the last season?
P1: do you follow international basketball? What's up? What are the stats events etc recently?
P1: how does nba generate revenues?
Answered all the questions.

Over to P2

P2: what do you do at Alstom(where I work as a software engineer)
P2: what is the difference in 2 projects(I work on 2 projects- lead for one)
So how does you feel team management has evolved you?
P2: what languages do you work on?
P2: where did you learn those? Don't think there part of curriculum
P2: how did you train you juniors?
P2: what is the revenue of your company
P2: what is your role in the company, how does is affect cost cutting?
P2: some more technical questions regarding work(proper grilling but i was able to handle all the questions)
P2: who is Alstom India head? Do you report to him ? Is he German
P2: who is the CEO of Alstom?
P1 jumping in...what are the main competitors of Alstom
Some questions around this

P1: so you said you have been brought up in a family of 7, tell me about that!
Answered what everyone does and some question around these.

P1: okay nice to talk to you, you may now leave.

Transcript 7

Profile - 8/9/8 - B Com
29 Months Work Ex as per stage 2 form
NC - OBC

WAT - Genetically modified crops are key to food security

Panel - F (Finance Professor)
E - (Economics Professor)

F - Please have a seat
F - You graduated in 2020, what are you doing since then?
F - What is your package
F - That's a good package, then why MBA? Do you want to make more money?
F - You mentioned you enjoy reading, what do you read? (which genre)
F - But that is not fiction (Mentioned a non fiction book)
F - What is you favourite subject in graduation?
F - What is IRR
F - If IRR is calculated using NPV, will it be positive or negative
F - Just answer in one word, positive or negative

Over to E

E - Is this the only state you have lived in?
E - In comparison to the other states you have lived in, in what areas do you feel your current state is doing better? Where is it lacking?
E - Some time back your state's CM protested in Delhi. Are you aware of what it was about?
E - I hope you are aware of the Russia-Ukraine war, it has been a year now. What are the implications of this war on Global economy and Indian economy
Some cross questioning here
E - What is the US-China relationship like?
E - What would the implications be on our country? (With respect to previous question)

E - I think my colleague has a question for you

F - Tell me about your job

Back to E

E - Have you heard of M S Swaminathan?
E - What was his contribution?
E - What about Varghese Kurian?
E - What do you know about the white revolution?

F - What other calls do you have?
E - You may leave. We are done.

Overall experience - The professors were to the point. There was minimal cross-questioning.

Transcript 8

89.30/91.40/7.7
CAT: 99.09 %ile

WAT: Indian diplomacy is changing for good
25 Minutes

Panel 1
P1: Female: Mid 30s
P2: Male: Mid 50s

Greetings

P2: Where are you from?
P2: What was your graduation stream?
P2: Why a gap year?
P2: Do you remeber something about your graduation stream?
P2: What is Eddy current?
P2: How it is different from conventional heat loss?
P2: Difference between step up and step down transformer?
P2: How do you manage heat loss in transformer?
P2: How is the oil cooled again after being used once?
P2: Is there any direct contact between the coolant and atmosphere?

P1: You did your graduation from Kurukshetra, we know about the major historical impact of the place, name anything else Kurukshetra is famous for?
P1: There is a famous astronaut from Haryana. Name her.
P1: What kind of mission she was involved in?
P1: Do you follow anything business related?
P1: Give me stats of steam storefront.
P1: What is the percentage of Indian Accounts in that?
P1: Is there any reason to play Video Games other than building a professional career in it.
P1: Anything other than fun?
P1: Name a few companies which develop VR headsets?

Transcript 9

Profile:9/8/7 engineer with 2 years workex
Time:20 mins

Wat: Businesses should implement work from home permanently

PI: 2 male panelists(1 old and other was middle aged)
1. Tell us about your work experience
2. Where was your work location
3. What is Quantum computing
4. What are its working principles
5. How would you rank your hobbies.
6. Tell us about a topic where you had a wild debate
7. Explain Why MBA in hindi without using any English word
8. What is management called in hindi. You didn't use it (told)
9. How is the working environment in your company
10. Name CEO of your company
11. Name 3 IT companies in India according to revenue(appreciated me)
12. Where have you travelled to lately
13. Name a river in Jammu and Kashmir
14. Can you fish in that river
15. What all happens in that river.
16. How did you reach there.
17. Tell about L&T and mind tree.was it a merger and acquisition
18. CEO of L&T
(Joked about IIM k having a professor with same name)
19. What other calls do you have
20. Will you give the exam one more time to have calls from ABC?(told no)
21. Is the CEO of your company an IIM alumni(it was not, he joked about it)

Overall ,it was more of conversational interview. Very chill panel. They were smiling the whole time. Ended the interview on a joke when they said they were done. And I was like so soon. They laughed that should they ask more questions and laughed hilariously.

Transcript 10

WAT:Does absences of evidence means evidence of Absence

F1: Asked about why Calicut again (I did ug in NIT Calicut) - mentioned that I had very positive experiences from the city etc.

F1: What calls do you have? So even if you convert B or C will u join K because of the positivity?- said I will think about it but she asked to answer truthfully so told B. She appreciated honesty.
F1: What is Poverty objectively? What is the classifying number for BPL? What is Per capita income etc. - did not have clarity on the actual numbers that she needed

F1: Also asked about GDP and GDP growth rate and asked why are we still called a developing country with such high numbers? - answered but couldn't convince her
F1: why mba? Also asked about promotion details in work exp - answered

M1: Asked in detail about work exp - answered
M1: Asked about what kind of techniques for data gaps and issues - IQR, mean std dev & normal distribution also (work exp related) - answered
M1: In India rich are getting richer how will you plot this? Mentioned about a distribution with long right tail and left skew

M1: Is your Banglore interview over? Which one was tougher? - said this one as they asked general questions on economics (like BPL one) and they laughed

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Transcript 11

Profile: 9/8/8, OBC Female, Biomedical Engineering
Work ex: 2 years in IT as a Validation Analyst

Two panelists. One male around 40+ years and one female around 30+ years.
As I entered, I asked permission to sit. Sir asked are you from TIME or IMS. I was looking confused. He said he could guess whether I was from a coaching institute since I asked if I can sit. Gave the example of how a guest takes liberty when invited and take their seat right away instead of asking whether they can sit or not. The interview went downhill right after that.
1. What topic should we judge you in the next 20 mins. I told current affairs especially Red Sea
2. Instead asked about what is happening in Jharkhand.
3. Why is India affected by Red Sea? If we don't import or export, we won't be affected at all. Why are ppl exporting vaccines when ppl in our country are falling short of those resources.
4. If govt enacted a rule to avoid brain drain all problems will be solved. Tell why. He grilled on this and didn't let me finish my answers for any question.
5. Since I said moving to abroad was a personal choice, was grilled on how all these personal choice leads to a capitalist society not being fair to everyone.
6. Was asked about work. Try to convince me Agile is not a stupid methodology. I was not able to.
7. Asked who is Shiv Nadar since I studied in SSN. I told he's founder of HCL and a big philanthropist.
Grilled on how one can be the top 3rd richest person and still a philanthropist. The panel showed Shiv Nadar in poor light and I had to tackle.
8. Do we have a Ministry of Commerce in Tamil Nadu? If so, who's leading it. Asked who's the Minister of Commerce in India. How is Ministry of Commerce different from Finance Ministry?
9. What does the Home Minister do? What is state of internal affairs?

10. Asked which was my best call yet. I told Bangalore. He said how was the mock interview (implying me attending IIM K was a mock interview). I denied it being a mock interview. They then told to leave.

When I nodded my head trying to acknowledge what they were telling they said you are saying yes to everything we say, in our institute we don't want students like that. I clarified I was acknowledging what they said and did disagree on few viewpoints. They said I was only being euphemistic.

Overall both the panelists were trying to negate whatever I said and trying to provoke me by testing my patience. It was a full blown stress interview right from the start.

PGP LSM Interviews

Transcript 1

Panel: M

- So, from science in 12th, agriculture in graduation and PGP in LSM, why?
- What do you want to learn from LSM?
- Name two conglomerates from India.
- Companies under them?
- Their leaders?
- Brands under them?
- Who is Shaktikanta Das?
- What does he do?
- Elaborate on monetary policy.
- States in India which are ruled by communist parties.
- Political parties which have "Congress" in their name.

Panel: F

- Which state are you from?
- Tell me something special about Madhya Pradesh.

Transcript 2

Panelists: P1 & P2 (Both Female)

P1 - So why do you look so different from your photograph?

P1 - What did you do during your college days?

P1 - Which events did you organize in your college days?

P1 - What challenges did you face while working in a team?

P1 - What do you mean by punctuality?

P1 - Can you give examples of some famous people who are punctual?

P1 - Interrupted again: Don't take the example of Elon Musk; give some Indian example.

P1 - Do you think there's a difference between punctuality & determination?

P1 - Do you think it's necessary to be punctual?

P1 - What's the difference between morning and evening college?

P2 - So, you worked in Wipro?

P2 - Do you know the difference between data and information?

P1 - Can you try a basic statistics question?

P2 - Describe your job role in Nestlé.

P1 - Do you know where Kozhikode is located?

P1 - Where is Kerala located as per the India map?

P1 - What comes at the end of Tamil Nadu?

P1 - Why is there no bridge between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka?

P1 - Which country shares a border with Bhutan?

P1 - Which Indian state is close to Nepal?

P1 - Why LSM?

P1 - Since you stay in Delhi, who was Bahadur Shah Zafar?

P1 - Where is Red Fort located?

P1 - Where did Bahadur Shah Zafar die?

P1 - Who built Qutub Minar?

P1 - If you get converted for both PGP and LSM, what will you choose? (Don't say LSM just because you are attending this interview.)

Note: The interview was interactive and engaging.

Transcript 3

Panel: Two Female Interviewers (F1 & F2)

1. **F1 - Is this your first or last name?**
2. Intro
3. Why this shift from Art to LSM?
4. Show your painting.
5. Why do you only draw women?
6. In what type of company will you work after your MBA?
7. Which countries are good at animation?
8. List three issues India is facing.
9. Pick one issue and discuss it with data.
10. Name three women from the finance sector.
11. How are animation and ethics related?
12. What are the problems faced by women in India?
13. Since you are a B.Com grad, how is the Indian economy doing from a commerce perspective?
14. Name a famous cartoonist from India.
15. What is the size of the Indian economy?
16. What percentage of the population is below the poverty line, in rural areas, or digital?

Transcript 4

Panel: P1 & P2

P1 - Introduce yourself.

P1 - Why LSM?

P1 - Why not a master's in economics?

P1 - What after LSM?

P1 - Theories of motivation?

P1 - Have you studied anything in Social Psychology?

P1 - If a product X's demand increases because others are buying it, what is it called? (Bandwagon Effect)

P1 - What is the opposite of the Bandwagon Effect? (Snob Effect)

P1 - Are they part of the network effect?

P1 - What are externalities?

Panel: P2

P2 - Meaning of your name?

P2 - Where do you get information from?

- ○ (Candidate answered: Online and social media)
- ○ Interviewer: "Social media se knowledge kaise milegi?"
- ○ Candidate: "Depends on the type of pages followed. Not for in-depth knowledge but for access to quick info."
- ○ Interviewer: "Yahi dikkat hai aaj ki generation ki, in-depth knowledge hi nahi hai."
- **P2 - Who won the Nobel Prize in Economics 2021? Any Indian origin winner?**
- **P2 - What is a natural experiment and randomized control trial?**
- **P2 - The interviewer said, "You have knowledge, but it's just surface level."**
- **P2 - Tell me about your family.**

PGP Finance Interviews

Transcript 1

Panel:- 2M
Profile:- Mechanical engg with 24 months workex with tyre industry.

M1 - Tell me about yourself
M1 - Where do see yourself in 10 years
M1 - Why mba in finance rather than normal mba. How it helps you to be a entrepreneur.
(i said my interest in stock market)
M1 - How you select stocks? Something related to HDFC bank.
(some talks related stocks and financial freedom)

M2 - What all things you remember from your academics?
(i told IC engines and operations)
M2 - Questions on pert , cpm , where both are used.
Simplex and transportation problems.
M2 - what are leading indicators?
M2- you have done your graduation from kozhikode and you are from kerala, why again kozhikode ?

— academics related questions where difficult for me. Many times I told couldnt recall.

Transcript 2

Mech engg - 27 mnths experience in CNC grinding industry

Panel 3

1) Why MBA in finance.
2) What is risk?
3) Stock market related questions like
different financial ratios, how do you evaluate a company, what is options, call and put options, how you manage work and trading together, why different companies have different PE ratios, what is bookvalue, what is eps, why 95% people are in loss, technical amd fundamental analysis etc

4) About my workex.
5) What all calls I have?
6) Have you made enough money in stock market to finance your PGP course and discussion around my % returns.
7) Any questions for us?

That's all. Overall a very nice experience. Went like a conversation.

Transcript 3

93.82/85.38/7.77

Instrumentation Engineer, 30 months workex in core automation
2 Member panel, both male, one in his mid-50s, the other around his 40s. Started 5 minutes before the given time with the document verification. The actual panel started after 15 minutes.

P1: TMSAYS
P1: Who are your organization's main competitors? What is your day-to-day work look like? (told, convinced)
P1: Your current work seems very related to what you've studied, so why do you want to do an MBA in finance? (Started giving a prepared answer)
P1: Please be specific (messed up here)
P1: So, any financial news that you've read about recently? (Told Sri Lanka crisis)
P1: That's more on the public policy and economics side. We teach corporate finance here. Anything related to that? (Told LIC IPO)
P1: Any other IPO that has been in news? (Told Paytm)

P1: what was its issue price and the current price? (Got it completely wrong, and he starts laughing. But told correctly that it has been halved since the issue)
P1: Name of Ukraine's president and what did he do before becoming president (told)
P1: Name of UK's prime minister (told). Where did he recently visit? It was in news (couldn't answer)

P2: What's your CAT percentile? (told)
P2: What does that tell you? (Tried to answer but wasn't convincing)
P2: How does normalization work? What is a weighted average and how it is used here? (Not convinced by the answer)
P2: What recent changes have been made to UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules? (Could not recall but told what are the effects of the same)

Around 15 minute interview, chill panel. Lots of cross-questioning. People from non-fin backgrounds read about basic finance trivia, current news, etc.