

Top 50 Law Internship & Job Interview Questions

With Answer Tips for Law Students & Young Lawyers

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Whether you're walking into your first law firm interview or competing for a coveted judiciary clerkship, preparation is everything. This guide covers the 50 most commonly asked questions across legal internships and entry-level job interviews, with practical answer tips to help you stand out.

1. General / Personal Questions

1 Tell me about yourself.

Answer Tip: Structure: Academic background → relevant experience → why law → why this role/firm. Keep it under 90 seconds.

2 Why did you choose law as a career?

Answer Tip: Show genuine passion. Mention a specific experience, case, or issue that inspired you — avoid clichés like 'I want to help people'.

3 Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Answer Tip: Show ambition but align it with the role. E.g., 'I aim to develop deep expertise in corporate law and contribute meaningfully to a firm like yours.'

4 What are your strengths?

Answer Tip: Pick 2–3 relevant to law: analytical thinking, research skills, attention to detail. Back each with a short example.

5 What are your weaknesses?

Answer Tip: Pick a genuine but non-critical weakness. Show self-awareness and mention what you're doing to address it.

6 Why do you want to intern/work here?

Answer Tip: Research the firm/organization thoroughly. Mention specific practice areas, notable cases, or culture fit.

7 Tell us about a challenge you overcame.

Answer Tip: Use the STAR method: Situation, Task, Action, Result. Keep it relevant to legal or academic contexts.

8 What makes you different from other candidates?

Answer Tip: Combine unique skills + experiences + attitude. Be specific, not generic.

9 Are you comfortable with long hours?

Answer Tip: Be honest but positive. Reference any past experiences where you worked under pressure or deadlines.

10 How do you handle constructive criticism?

Answer Tip: Show maturity. Say you welcome feedback as a growth tool and give an example.

2. Academic & Subject Knowledge

1 Which subjects did you enjoy most in law school and why?

Answer Tip: Mention subjects relevant to the firm's practice area. Show intellectual curiosity.

2 Can you explain [a recent landmark judgment]?

Answer Tip: Stay updated. Practice explaining key SC/HC judgments — facts, issues, held — in 2–3 sentences.

3 What do you know about [Company's / Court's / NGO's] work?

Answer Tip: Do deep research. Reference recent matters, publications, or initiatives specific to them.

4 What is the difference between a petition and a plaint?

Answer Tip: Know your procedural law. Petition = constitutional/special remedy; Plaint = civil suit initiation.

5 Explain the doctrine of promissory estoppel.

Answer Tip: A party cannot go back on a clear promise if the other party has reasonably relied on it to their detriment.

6 What is the principle of res judicata?

Answer Tip: A matter already judged by a court of competent jurisdiction cannot be raised again in litigation.

7 Distinguish between void and voidable contracts.

Answer Tip: Void = no legal effect from inception; voidable = valid until rescinded by the aggrieved party.

8 What are the essentials of a valid contract?

Answer Tip: Offer, acceptance, consideration, capacity, free consent, lawful object, certainty.

9 What is habeas corpus?

Answer Tip: A writ requiring a person under arrest to be brought before a judge — used to challenge unlawful detention.

10 Explain the concept of judicial review in India.

Answer Tip: Courts review legislative and executive actions to ensure they conform to the Constitution.

3. Research & Drafting Skills

1 How do you conduct legal research?

Answer Tip: Mention databases (SCC Online, Manupatra, Westlaw), statute reading, and case law analysis methodology.

2 Have you drafted any legal documents? Walk us through one.

Answer Tip: Describe a contract, memo, brief, or petition you drafted. Highlight structure and precision.

3 How do you summarise a case law?

Answer Tip: Facts → Issues → Arguments → Held → Significance. Keep concise but complete.

4 What research tools or databases are you familiar with?

Answer Tip: Name tools you've used: SCC Online, Manupatra, Lexis Nexis, Indian Kanoon, Westlaw, etc.

5 How do you ensure accuracy in your research?

Answer Tip: Cross-verify sources, check latest amendments, confirm judgment dates, note any conflicting judgments.

4. Situational / Behavioural Questions

1 How would you handle a conflict of interest?

Answer Tip: Disclose immediately to supervising partner/authority. Follow the firm's protocol and ethical guidelines.

2 What would you do if a client asked you to do something unethical?

Answer Tip: Firmly decline. Explain your ethical obligations as a legal professional. Report if necessary.

3 Describe a time you worked under pressure.

Answer Tip: Use STAR method. Show resilience, time-management, and priority-setting skills.

4 Have you ever disagreed with a superior? How did you handle it?

Answer Tip: Show respectful assertiveness: raised concern professionally, listened to reasoning, adapted if needed.

5 How do you prioritise tasks when managing multiple deadlines?

Answer Tip: Use a priority matrix. Communicate proactively. Show you can manage workload without compromising quality.

6 Describe your experience working in a team.

Answer Tip: Share a specific example. Emphasise communication, collaboration, and contribution to the collective goal.

7 How would you handle a difficult client?

Answer Tip: Stay calm, listen actively, empathise, set clear expectations, and escalate if needed.

8 Give an example of when you showed initiative.

Answer Tip: Any proactive step beyond assigned work — additional research, flagging an issue, improving a process.

9 How do you manage stress?

Answer Tip: Structured planning, breaks, exercise, mentorship — show emotional intelligence and self-awareness.

10 Tell us about a time you made a mistake. What did you learn?

Answer Tip: Be honest. Show accountability and what you changed as a result.

5. Motivation & Career Goals

1 Why litigation / corporate law / public interest law?

Answer Tip: Show an informed, considered reason. Mention experiences or exposure that shaped your preference.

2 What area of law do you want to specialise in?

Answer Tip: Be specific. Show that you've researched the field and have a reason beyond salary or prestige.

3 Do you plan to appear for UPSC / Judiciary exams?

Answer Tip: Be honest but professional. If yes, mention it doesn't conflict with your commitment to this role.

4 Who is your role model in the legal profession?

Answer Tip: Pick a real person you genuinely admire. Be ready to explain why — their cases, judgments, or advocacy.

5 What do you read to stay updated on law?

Answer Tip: Bar & Bench, Live Law, SCC Online alerts, law review journals, Economic Times (for corporate law).

6. HR & Practical Questions

1 Are you willing to relocate?

Answer Tip: Answer based on genuine preference. Show flexibility where possible.

2 What is your expected stipend/salary?

Answer Tip: Research market rates. Give a range. Show you're open to discussion.

3 How soon can you join?

Answer Tip: Be precise. Account for notice periods or exam schedules.

4 Do you have any questions for us?

Answer Tip: Always ask something! E.g., 'What does a typical day look like for an intern here?' or 'What matters are currently most active in the team?'

5 Why should we hire you over other candidates?

Answer Tip: Summarise your unique combination of skills, attitude, and commitment. Be confident, not arrogant.

7. Ethics & Professional Conduct

1 What do you know about the Bar Council of India Rules?

Answer Tip: Demonstrate knowledge of professional ethics: no fee sharing with non-lawyers, duty to court, confidentiality, etc.

2 What is the duty of an advocate to the court?

Answer Tip: An advocate must not mislead the court, must present law correctly even if against the client, and must maintain dignity.

3 What are the grounds for professional misconduct by an advocate?

Answer Tip: Misappropriation of client funds, contempt of court, filing frivolous suits, breach of professional confidence, etc.

4 Can an advocate advertise their services?

Answer Tip: No — Bar Council of India rules prohibit advertising by advocates, subject to limited exceptions online.

5 What is client confidentiality?

Answer Tip: Information shared in confidence by a client cannot be disclosed without consent, except in limited legally mandated situations.

8. Current Affairs & Legal Developments

1 What is a recent legal development that caught your attention?

Answer Tip: Pick a relevant, recent judgment or legislation. Explain it briefly and give your informed perspective.

2 What is your opinion on [recent controversial judgment]?

Answer Tip: Present both sides before giving your own nuanced view. Show you can think critically without being inflammatory.

3 How do you see AI affecting the legal profession?

Answer Tip: Acknowledge efficiency gains in research and drafting; stress that judgment, ethics, and advocacy remain human.

4 What is the significance of the new criminal law codes (BNS/BNSS/BSA)?

Answer Tip: They replace IPC, CrPC and IEA respectively — modernise criminal law, use gender-neutral language, new offences, trial timelines.

5

What are your views on ADR mechanisms in India?

Answer Tip: Growing importance — arbitration, mediation, conciliation decongest courts. Mention Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.

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