

How to prepare for numerical tests

Investment Banking › Interview Preparation



Investment Banking, Private Equity
& Venture Capital Articles, Guides & Jobs

Most investment banks and even some private equity funds will start their interview process with a numerical test that can either be taken online or on the company's premises. While many candidates are confident in their numerical skills, as many as 80% of the candidates fail to pass some of those tests. Below are some tips and advice to prepare ahead of your numerical test.

Review the basics

Be comfortable with fractions, percentages, ratios, inflation rates, power laws, basic geometry concepts, etc. Take a few sample tests (click here for [numerical tests](#)) to practice and then review any concept you have not fully mastered.

You are often allowed to use a calculator - make sure you know how to use it!

Bring your own, and learn how to use it to save valuable time during the interviews.

Questions are designed to confuse you

Some questions can be tricky. As it's a multiple-choice test, some questions may have solutions that are very close to the correct answer, or include some solutions that represent the most common calculation mistakes that can be made.

For example: mixing units (kg with g), confusing different charts on a graph, etc. So make sure that you are 100% confident in your answer and do a rapid double-check before submitting it.

Attention to detail is key

Pay attention to units, scales, etc. Make sure you spend some time scanning the data before rushing into calculations.

Answer questions randomly if you run out of time

It's better to try to answer a question than not answering at all - at least by answering you get a chance to get it right.

Download More Free Articles & Guides at [Asklvy.Net](https://asklvy.net)