

Quant Trading Interview — 5-Week Study Plan

A realistic runway from a cold start to full mock-superday readiness. Less if you are refreshing skills from a prior cycle. Twenty to forty minutes a day beats weekend cramming: mental-math fluency is built by repetition.

THE PLAN

Weeks 1-2	Baseline and fundamentals. Take one untimed mental-math set to find where you make errors (fractions, percentages, two-digit multiplication). Drill those areas 20-30 minutes a day, untimed at first; add a clock once accuracy is consistently above about 90%. Alongside this, review expected value, conditional probability and Bayes' rule, combinatorics, and basic distributions.
Week 3	Add time pressure. Take three or four full timed mental-math tests this week (for example, 80 questions in 8 minutes) and classify every miss as a knowledge gap or a rushing error. Start daily brain-teaser practice, working out loud or on paper and stating your assumptions and structure as well as the answer.
Week 4	Add game and behavioral practice. Run simple market-making drills (quote a spread on an unknown value, adjust to new information). Draft and rehearse four to six STAR-format stories, including a mistake you owned, a decision made under uncertainty, and a firm-specific "why this firm" answer.
Week 5	Full mock superday. Run a timed math test, a probability and brain-teaser round, a market-making or trading game, and a behavioral round back-to-back, with a study partner or solo against the clock. This builds stamina for rounds four and five of a superday, when fatigue sets in.
Final week	Cut volume but keep practicing daily: 15-20 minutes of mental math and one or two brain teasers. Re-read the firm's public materials and recent candidate reports. Prioritize sleep before test day over late cramming.

FIRM FORMATS AT A GLANCE

FIRM	FORMAT	WHAT IT ACTUALLY TESTS
Optiver	80Q · 8 min · typed · -1	80 typed arithmetic questions in 8 minutes, -1 per wrong answer.
CTC	50Q · 15 min · mixed · no penalty	50 questions in 15 minutes across numerical, spatial, verbal and logic reasoning. Candidates report no negative marking.
Flow Traders	75Q practice mode · formats vary	75 multiple-choice questions on integers, decimals and fractions, -2 per wrong answer. Public Flow formats vary by region, role and cycle.

Maven Securities	40Q · 6 min · 5-choice · bar 34	40 five-choice questions in 6 minutes, –2 per wrong answer. Fractions, percentages and powers.
SIG	70Q · 8 min · mixed · target 55	70 questions in 8 minutes: typed difference-of-squares tricks, plus multiple-choice decimals and ugly fractions.
Akuna Capital	80Q · 8 min · typed · –1	80 typed arithmetic questions in 8 minutes, –1 per wrong answer, as publicly reported for the first OA. A separate sequences section follows.

Practise every format above for free, in your browser.

No signup, no card — one fixed practice set per test at trademindapp.com/free-tests/

For a freshly generated set every day, timing analytics and daily plans, the TradeMind app is on iPhone and Mac.

TradeMind is an independent practice tool and is not affiliated with, endorsed by, or sponsored by Optiver, Chicago Trading Company, Flow Traders, Maven Securities, Susquehanna (SIG), Akuna Capital, IMC, Jane Street, Citadel, or any other firm named here. Firm names describe the publicly reported style of an assessment only. Formats, question types, pass marks and difficulty are candidate-reported, vary by year and role, and may change at any time — treat every figure here as a typical shape rather than a guarantee. All practice questions are procedurally generated and reproduce no real test material.